THE TIMES

No: 66,455 — MONDAY MARCH 8 1999 — http://www.the-times.co.uk



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Hague launches 'kitchen table' Toryism

By Tim Hames

IN A striking shift of thinking, William Hague has ordered all members of his Shadow Cabinet to adopt a new political approach known as "kitchen table conservatism".

The essence of the Tory initiative will be a major change in political and presentational emphasis. The leadership will now focus on core issues known to be of central importance to the electorate and address those subjects in similarly direct language.

Shadow Cabinet members have been told that they must stop attempting to defend the last Conservative administration, be more willing to admit that mistakes were made under Margaret Thatcher and John Major, and then move on to discuss new Conservative ideas.

The new strategy has seven "campaigning criteria". These are: the use of language that resonates with voters; a willingness to listen; an emphasis on the future not the past; a readiness to concede past failings and to move on; being for things as well as against them; maintaining a sense of proportion while criticising the Government; and the importance of absolute integrity.

Mr Hague wants the Tories to escape the comparison with their own past and to refocus the contrast on new Labour. Opinion poll evidence indicates that the electorate still sees the current Shadow Cabinet more as representatives of the last Tory regime than an alternative Government.

The phrase "kitchen table" is drawn from the political vocabulary of the United States and is the rough equivalent of "bread and butter" issues. The label reflects the American influence of many Conservative Central office figures and was perhaps re-inforced by Mr Hague's own visit to the US last month.

The "kitchen table" emphasis also reflects Mr Hague's belief that under Margaret Thatcher, and especially John Major, Conservatives became obsessed with economics and abstract economic language of "markets" in education and the NHS that meant little to ordinary voters, and, in so far as it meant anything, sounded like the dictionary of the bureaucrat and manager.

The shift by the Conservatives is a tacit recognition that under New Labour the old distinctions between "Left" and "Right" have become blurred. Mr Blair's emphasis on "what matters is what works" is believed to have had a powerful impact on middle-of-the-road voters.

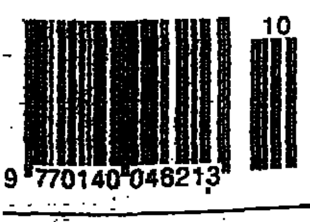
Mr Hague will, therefore, put a lot more emphasis on devising and promoting practical alternatives to Labour's "early pledges" on class sizes and NHS waiting lists.

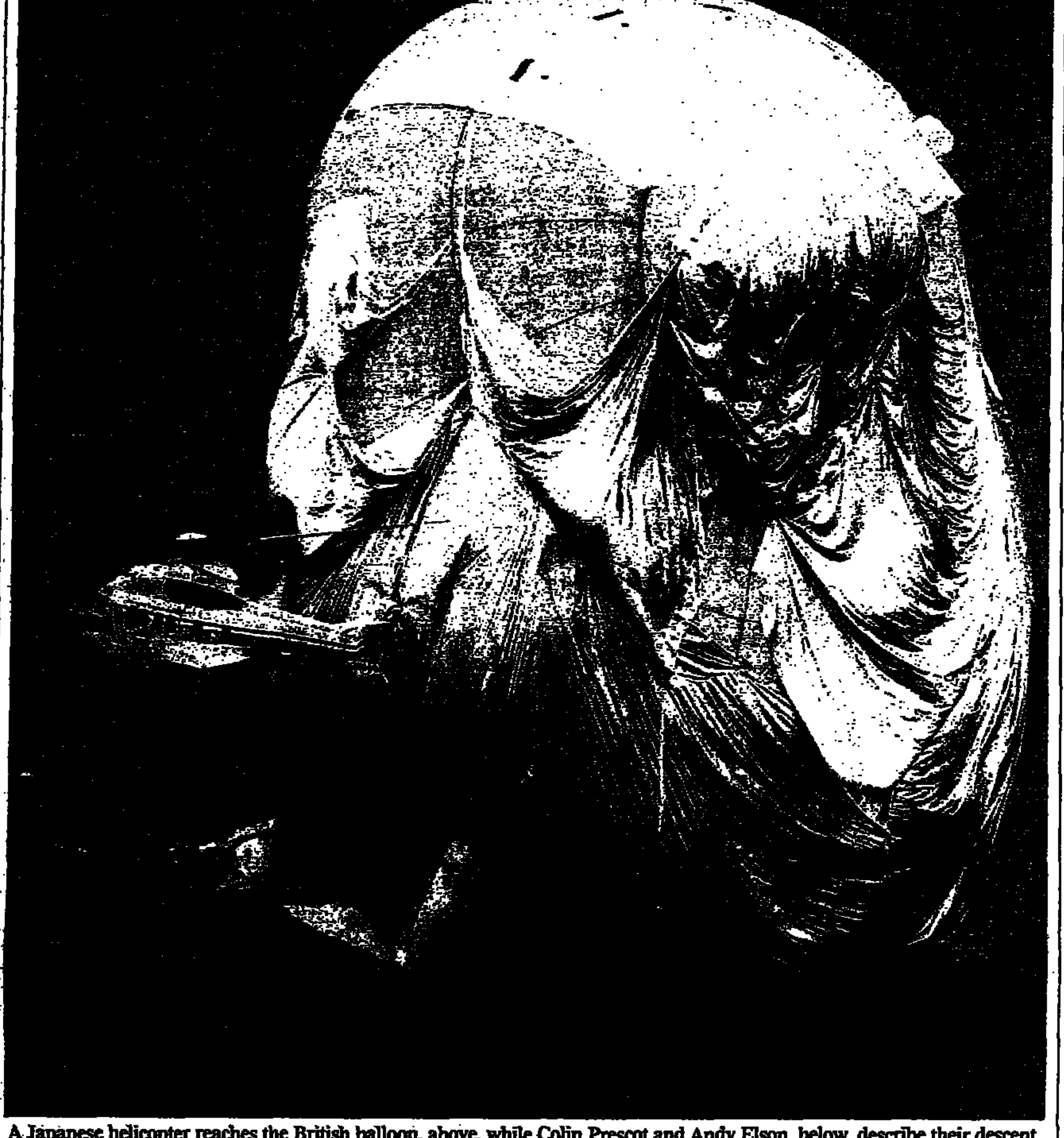
This will be seen as a shift to the political centre even though many of the individual programmes that the Tories might propose could be considered radical and "right wing". It also reflects the Tory leader's desire to promote decentralisation of key services — in

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A Japanese helicopter reaches the British balloon, above, while Colin Prescot and Andy Elson, below, describe their descent

Longest balloon trip ends in sea

By Susie Steiner and Robert Whymant

THE world's longest balloon journey came to an abrupt end yesterday when the all-British Cable & Wireless balloon team were forced to ditch into the ocean off the coast of Japan.

Last night the remaining round-the-world challenger — the Breitling Orbiter 3 — was continuing on its course over the Middle East, while attempts were under way to retrieve the 200 ft Cable & Wireless balloon from the Pacific.

Pilots Andy Elson, 45, of Wells, Somerset, and Colin Prescot, 48, of Stockbridge, Hampshire, leapt into water from their floating capsule at 4am yesterday. The balloon had been forced down by driving snow and the team had to be plucked to safety by a Japanese military helicopter.



Despite failure in the last great aviation challenge, the pair achieved a new endurance record for the longest hot air balloon flight, previously set at ten days.

Mr Prescot and Mr Elson managed 18 days in the air, completing 12,000 miles of the 18,000-mile round trip — 3,000 miles short of American Steve Fossett's distance record.

Speaking from an air base in Hamamatsu, Japan, yesterday, Mr Prescot told how he and Mr Elson had navigated down to about 100 ft above water level as a storm whipped up around them.

"Andy did a fantastic job of the landing," said Mr Prescot. "We got it down very gently, which was a relief because it could have been nasty."

While Mr Prescot and Mr Elson now face the sad task of sifting through the wreckage of their attempt, one woman expressed her relief.

Mr Elson's mother, Phyllis, said that said she was disappointed for her son but added: "I hope he doesn't try it again."

Film director Stanley Kubrick dies aged 70

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

STANLEY KUBRICK, the reclusive and obsessive director behind *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *A Clockwork Orange*, died yesterday at his home in Hertfordshire. He was 70.

A doctor was called to Childwickbury Manor, a sprawling estate near St Albans, where Mr Kubrick lived with his wife Christiane. Police said they were not treating the death as suspicious.

The director, who exhausted many actors and film-makers with his exacting standards — it was not uncommon for him to demand 50 takes from his actors, had been working on an erotic thriller, *Eyes Wide Shut*, starring Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise, at London's Pinewood studios. The film is due to be released in July.

A spokesman for the family said: "Stanley Kubrick died in the early hours of the morning. There will be no further comment at this time." Last night Ms Kidman and Mr Cruise released a statement, which said: "He was like family to us and we are in shock and devastated."

Mr Kubrick, who shunned the glamourous life of Hollywood and rarely left his home, was regarded as a phenomenon in modern cinema; in 31 years he produced ten feature films that earned eight Oscars and 14 nominations. His films included *Lolita*, *Dr Strangelove*, *Spartacus* and *Full Metal Jacket*.

His death could raise the question of whether *A Clockwork Orange*, the screen adapatation of Anthony Burgess's bleak and violent novel, is released in Britain again. In 1973 Mr Kubrick withdrew the film from circulation in Britain after it provoked copycat attacks. However, this may now be reviewed.

Mr Kubrick first established himself as one of America's top directors in 1957 with *Paths of Glory*, a film about the French Army during the First World War.

Barry Norman, the film critic, said last night: "This has come as a real shock, especially because Mr Kubrick has only just finished his new film. There was no suggestion that there was anything awry. He was an extraordinary filmmaker. He was incredibly meticulous in all his films, which took him an average of two to three years to make."

He added: "I knew him a little. He was a very reclusive man and refused to fly. That's why his films were made in Britain — even *Full Metal Jacket*, set in Vietnam, was filmed in this country. He was a great Anglophile and lived here since the 1960s."

Michael Winner, the director, said Mr Kubrick was a recluse because he "believed the world outside was really like in *A Clockwork Orange*. He saw no reason to leave the house." Mr Winner said he had known Mr Kubrick for 30 years and had never known him to suffer ill health.

Sadly, he had been about to invite Mr Kubrick to receive this year's lifetime achievement award from the Director's Guild of Great Britain. "The loss to the world of cinema is incalculable," Mr Winner said. "He will be remembered as one of the greatest geniuses since cinema evolved."



Kubrick: won eight Oscars from ten feature films

Mark Batey, spokesman for the British Film Institute, said: "This is a huge loss to the film-making community. He was one of the landmark directors of the century who helped to define cinema."

Despite his quality, there are actors who loathe him. John Baxter, his biographer, said of Mr Kubrick: "Actors are drawn to him because of his undoubted skills and mystique, but they only work for him once."

Kirk Douglas who worked with him on *Spartacus* called him a "cold bastard". Harvey Keitel walked out of production on *Eyes Wide Shut*, citing "artistic differences".

Cinematic odyssey, Page 3
Obituary, page 23

United mourn

MANCHESTER United football club were in mourning yesterday for Dennis Viollet, their former captain and most prolific championship goal scorer, who died at his home in Florida of a brain tumour, aged 65.

A survivor of the Munich air disaster in February 1958, Viollet set Manchester United's championship goal-scoring record, with 32 goals in the 1959-60 season.

Viollet was capped three times for England. In 291 games he scored 178 goals for United, before being transferred in 1961 to Stoke where he made another 182 appearances, scoring 59 times.

Subsequently, he played in the United States for the Baltimore Bays, then returned to Britain to play in Northern Ireland for Linfield. He acted as coach to Preston and Crewe before finishing his career with the Washington Diplomats.

Sport, page 40

Southgate gets £800,000 pay-off

Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of the Royal Opera House, is to receive £800,000 from EMI, the music publishing and recording group, for standing down as their chairman with a year of his contract to run.......Page 48

Newcastle win

Newcastle won through to the FA Cup semi-finals beating Everton 4-1. The holders, Arsenal, will meet Chelsea or Manchester United.....Pages 25, 29

Heroic bobby in New York shoot-out

From James Bone in New York

A BRITISH policeman on holiday in America became the hero of a New York crime drama at the weekend when he dodged a bullet to catch two bandits in central Manhattan.

Howard Groves, 41, a deputy inspector in the Metropolitan Police, intervened when he and his girlfriend, Rachel Double, left their hotel on Saturday morning.

The couple saw the two men trying to rob a worker opening a shop. They pistol-whipped their victim but failed to get any cash. "I felt I had to do something," Inspector Groves told a local newspaper. "I couldn't just walk away."

As the gunmen tried to make their escape, Inspector Groves sent Miss Double back into the hotel for help while he and the hotel clerk followed the two. The robbers spotted the Briton, who is 6ft 2in, and the clerk on their tail and one of them fired a shot.

"As soon as I saw the flash, I saw the cop down on the floor," the hotel clerk said. "That's when I thought I better get down too."

As police began to arrive, Inspector Groves flagged down a squad car, flashed his Metropolitan Police identification card and joined the search.

"It made me think we were in an American movie," he said. "There was a sea of policemen, and they were all heavily armed."

The police caught up with the suspects at a subway station where one of them fled on to the tracks. But Inspector Groves suddenly found himself confronted by the other and wrestled him to the ground, grabbing a 9mm pistol from the man's belt.

Cedric Reid, 36, was arrested and charged with attempted robbery, assault and weapons possession.

Inspector Groves confessed that he was a bit shocked by the sudden call to duty. "I've never been fired at," he said.

IMF praises Brown's 'skilful' economic dexterity

Roland Watson and Graham Searjeant on the annual health check of the economy

GORDON BROWN received a pre-Budget fillip yesterday when the International Monetary Fund praised his "skilful management" of the economy and predicted that Britain would emerge virtually unscathed from a "short-lived" downturn.

The IMF, the world's economic watchdog, said the Chancellor's policy of setting clear public targets for the economy had helped the UK keep a lid on inflation while sustaining growth. It was an approach which "could offer useful lessons for other advanced and developing countries", said the Washington-based body.

In its annual health check on the UK economy, the IMF predicted that growth in 1999 would dip to 0.8 per cent, slightly below Mr Brown's one per cent target, with unemployment rising to five per cent from 4.7 per cent.

But IMF officials expect inflation to hit the Chancellor's 2.5 per cent target, down from 2.6 per cent.

They also see a clear case for the Bank of England resuming its recent run of interest rate cuts from the current 5.5 per cent, "to avoid an excessive weakening of economic activity".

Although the IMF concedes that momentum will slow this year, its report states: "The soundness of past policies has left fiscal and especially monetary policies well placed to deal promptly and decisively with developments." Mr Brown is expected to use the IMF report as evidence that an imminent soft landing will allow him to launch a "new economic platform" for the UK.

In a package billed as a Budget for "jobs, enterprise and the family", the Chancellor is expected to unveil a range of tax cuts for both the unemployed and low paid, as well as for wealthy entrepreneurs, especially in the high-tech sector.

Mr Brown is expected to grab headlines by setting a date for the introduction of his much-trailed 10p starting rate of tax, designed to help the low-paid. He also has in his sights the phased abolition of mortgage tax relief, Miras, and the taxing of child benefit for higher earners.

Mr Brown was still finalising the details yesterday, but the Budget's "green" measures were believed to include a cut in road tax of up to £50 for small, fuel-efficient cars and a paving of the way for a carbon tax on industry.

The Chancellor can afford to offer concessions to favoured groups while still appearing responsible because his revenue has been unexpectedly buoyant and because he is already committed to heavy real increases in duty on petrol and tobacco over and above adjustments for inflation.

Leading article, page 21

Ministers plan to shake up divorce laws

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are to go ahead with plans to introduce compulsory "information meetings" for people intending divorce after research found that the controversial sessions could save thousands of marriages.

The Lord Chancellor is expected to announce within weeks a date next year for implementing the main elements of the Family Law Act 1996, which will scrap the "quickie" divorce and bring in a one-year "cooling off" period.

There has been widespread debate over the feasibility of the compulsory meetings, which will offer couples marriage guidance as well as advice on how to proceed with a divorce. But three substantial sets of research findings show that they can help save marriages.

The findings, drawn from 14 pilot projects conducted over over the past two years, show that nearly one in five people take up the offer of a meeting a marriage counsellor, which is free to those who qualify under a means test. Sixty per cent of those decided to go ahead with counselling, half of them with their partners.

The research adds credibility to the main aim of the legislation as promoted by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the previous Lord Chancellor, which is to "save saveable marriages."

The pilot projects also found that, despite initial sceptism about the benefit of the meetings, more than 90 per cent of people said that they were useful. One researcher said: "We have enough evidence to say that these individual meetings can work, people do appreciate them. So the Government could go ahead and after that decide on whether fine-tuning is needed."

Under the Family Law Act, couples will have to attend an information meeting at least three months before they start divorce proceedings.

Officials have been studying whether they could amend the Act to allow for group meetings, or to tailor the meetings to those who wanted solely counselling or information, but ministers are believed to have decided that they do not want to delay the implementation of the act any further.

One Government official said: "If we start to introduce more and more changes ... by the time it would take to do this, there is an argument that it is probably not worth doing."

The pilot projects have been run by organizations such as Relate or by family mediation and marriage guidance groups. Their findings are being analysed by Professor Jan Walker at Newcastle University's Centre for Family Studies, and will be published this summer. Another study is investigating the cost of providing the information meetings, but no figures are available so far.

The research has also gone to the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Board on Family Law under Sir Thomas Boyd-Carpenter, which has been set up to oversee implementation of the Act.

The implementation of the Family Law Act amounts to the biggest shake-up of divorce law in decades. A main aim is to encourage couples to settle disputes over children and finances amicably and outside the courts.

Divorce disputes last year cost taxpapers £61 million in legal aid, and the Act will encourage greater use of mediation, which will be free for couples who qualify for legal aid. The Act will also scrap the present "fault"-based divorce laws and bring in a 12-month "cooling off" period for couples — 18 months for those with children.

In general divorces will not be granted until arrangements about children and finances have been settled.



Ready for a tour of Britain: Monica Lewinsky arriving at Heathrow Airport yesterday

Lewinsky fails to win friends

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AS Monica Lewinksy embarks on a British charm offensive today, she can only hope she has more success rehabilitating her image in Essex and Sheffield than she has managed at home.

The former White House trainee flew into London last night ready to begin a lengthy book-signing tour with an appearance at Harrods. In America, opinion polls showed that viewers were unimpressed by the story she told in her television interview with Barbara Walters, intended as the chief gamble in a campaign to win sympathy and understanding. But a poll published in *Time* today shows that 72 per cent of those interviewed have an unfavourable impression of her, a negligible drop from the 78 per cent who had such a view of her back in September when the Starr Report was published. Only 15 per cent think well of her and 74 per cent think she is enjoying the attention of her media blitz. A *Newsweek* poll showed that her image had improved with 8 per cent of Americans.

Whether or not she is liked in Britain, she will be hard to avoid. Her 18-day tour will take her to 19 bookshops from Bristol to Edinburgh including the Lakeside shopping centre at Thurrock, Essex, to promote Andrew Morton's *Monica's Story*.

The first excerpts were published yesterday of a book by George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's former aide, about his time in the White House. "If I knew everything then that I know now, I wouldn't have worked for him," he said in an interview. "He has accomplished more than I ever thought humanly possible. But he lost the battle with himself, tarnished his presidency and all of us associated with it."

☐ Hillary Clinton will not accompany the President on a goodwill tour of Central America this week because of a recurring back injury.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nott leads Hague's euro fight

Sir John Nott, the Defence Secretary during the Falklands war, has been recruited by William Hague to marshal the case for rejecting the euro.

Sir John will chair the Conservatives' commission charged with presenting the positive case for the UK to remain outside the single currency. Mr Hague will formally introduce Sir John when at the launch today of the commission, which will be asked to examine the potential constitutional and economic opportunities open to the country outside the euro zone.

The move reflects caution in Tory high command that the party's case against the euro will be weakened if it relies solely on negative arguments.

Heads cautious on A-level reform

Schools should refuse to implement A-level reforms until universities show that they will award degree places on the basis of the new curriculum, head teachers are to be told. Proposals are being finalised for students to take five subjects in their first year in the sixth-form, but the Secondary Heads Association says schools cannot afford to offer five per pupil, and it queries whether the new system will be of sufficient depth.

Air hostess takes legal action

An air hostess who was slashed with a vodka bottle by a passenger is taking legal action against her former employer. Fauna Weir has joined a rival airline since the attack on an Airtours charter last October, after she asked a man to stop smoking. The case is believed to centre on Miss Weir's sick leave and her employment with the airline after the incident. Airtours declined to comment on the legal action.

Soldiers held over Nazi link

Two soldiers, one from The Parachute Regiment, who are suspected of links to the violent neo-Nazi group Combat 18, were released on bail after being questioned by police and military investigators. Fourteen homes were raided across the country as part of a year-long investigation by police. Scotland Yard said the searches were carried out under a section of the Public Order Act 1986 that covers acts intended to cause race hate.

Man's best friend visits Ernie Wise



The comedian Ernie Wise, 73, has been reunited with his dog Molly, a ten-year-old Scottie, in England after being discharged from hospital in Florida. Doreen Wise, his wife, said from the couple's home in Maidenhead, Berkshire, that he was on the mend after his return in an air ambulance on Wednesday. Mr Wise underwent a triple heart bypass operation in a Fort Lauderdale hospital in January.

Doctors' mistakes cost £67m

BY IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAMAGES totalling £67 million were paid to patients last year for mistakes or negligence by doctors insured through the Medical Defence Union, which represents about half of the 130,000 registered practitioners in Britain.

In a review published today, the MDU says doctors are practising in an increasingly litigious environment and that claims against them have been rising at 15 per cent a year.

"We see no evidence of a fall in clinical standards," the report says. "Instead we see common themes arising out of claims. These are related to failures in procedures and systems such as poor clinical records, training and supervision issues and failures in using, checking and maintaining equipment and procedures."

The report focuses on the £5.5 million paid out for surgical errors, including a case in which a surgeon left a pair of forceps inside a patient after an operation.

Goodwill aid to clean up armies of Third World

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

OVERSEAS aid is to be used for the first time to back military reforms in Third World countries. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, is to announce details tomorrow of her plan to help to eliminate brutal, corrupt and ill-trained forces that blight the lives of millions.

Britain's £2.4 billion aid budget will not be used for equipping the armies with military hardware, training of soldiers or military planning. The aim is to introduce human-rights training and to improve the accountability of armed forces to a country's civilian authority.

The Government believes that bloated and repressive security forces are blocking the development of the world's poorest countries. Without action, ministers believe that British cash aid for a new road or a bridge could be wasted. Miss Short will tell the Institute of Defence Studies in London that unless these military forces face stricter controls, they will become the "seedbeds" for the next round of coups.

Her department is engaged in detailed work with the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office to bring greater stability to Sierra Leone, helping to draft a new constitution and working out the proper relationships between its defence ministry and the new army.

The new policy front coincides with greater efforts by the Government to prevent the involvement of children in war, to reduce the proliferation of small arms and light weaponry and to build up peace-keeping support in all the developing countries.

Last night Paul Eavis, director of the aid think-tank Safer World, welcomed the new policy. However, he called for a curb on arms sales: "We can't be arguing for restraint on military spending on the one hand and promote arms sales on the other."

Hague's 'kitchen table' Cabinet

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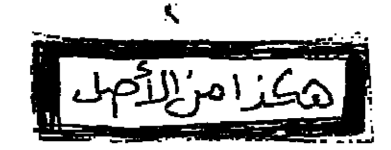
sharp contrast to the centralism of the Thatcher-Major era

Mr Hague's aim is to reverse current opinion polls and focus groups which suggest that fewer than one-in-five voters believe the Tories have policies to deal with the issues that worry them most.

The strategy was outlined in a 50-minute presentation by Mr Hague at the last Shadow Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. His colleagues were said to be stunned by the force of his presentation and the blunt manner in which he laid out the new strategy. The Tory leader told them that his "kitchen table conservatism" was not an optional approach but a "compulsory purchase". He also announced that from this point onwards "promotion and reward" to and within the Shadow Cabinet would depend exclusively on the effectiveness of individuals in meeting the new challenges. Of these the argument that the Tories should "concede and move on" is the most significant.

Some Shadow Cabinet members are known to be frustrated that they have not be allowed to float new ideas until the cumbersome machinery for reassessing policy set up by Peter Lilley, the Tory Deputy Leader, has slowly chewed them over.

The move also represents a return to Mr Hague's original emphasis when he first became party leader in June 1997.









Big screen milestones: Jack Nicholson slashing his way through *The Shining*; a scene from the beautiful but impenetrable *2001: A Space Odyssey*; and a poster for the subversive *A Clockwork Orange*, which is still banned in Britain

Kubrick: a cinematic odyssey

James Christopher celebrates the career of Stanley Kubrick

WIDELY acclaimed for his intellectual ambitions and his fierce perfectionism, Stanley Kubrick has occupied a unique niche in the film world. While his films have dealt with the threat of dehumanisation — men unhinged by war, or the toys of science — he himself has become increasingly obsessed with the arthouse techniques that are the hallmarks of his great films, often at the expense of character and emotions.

Some argue that the lack of such warmth in his most important films was fatal to his claim as a great artist. But few can argue against the fantastic achievements of his lavishly stylish camera work.

In 1961, Kubrick moved to England in search of greater independence from the studios. But he returned the following year for location work on *Lolita*, a controversial reworking of Nabokov's novel.

It raised hackles. What the critics didn't appreciate was the way in which Kubrick was able to sprinkle the bitter cynicism at the heart of the film with a healthy dose of the black humour that had characterised some of his earlier works.

His penchant for the macabre was perhaps most brilliantly realised in *Dr Strangelove*, in which he treated the possibility of nuclear armageddon as an almighty grim joke. He couldn't have cast a better actor than Peter Sellers as the tight-lipped RAF officer, the US president, and the Nazi-like scientist. The result is scary and nightmarish, and far more effective in its portrait of insanity and scream for disarmament than any number of worthy Cold War documentaries.

By this stage it was clear that ideas excited Kubrick more than celluloid personalities. *2001: A Space Odyssey* sharply polarised critical opinion.

To some, this sci-fi journey into humanity's future was an overblown, impenetrable conundrum. To others, particularly Kubrick's younger fans, it was the ultimate audio-visual trip — a psychedelic experience in tune with the drug culture. Its breathtaking photography and the Academy Award-winning special effects guaranteed its classic status.

A Clockwork Orange , cited as the year's best film by the New York Film Critics, is a striking, visually brilliant film that provides a chilling vision of a world dominated by anarchic delinquents. Malcolm McDowell's bad boy reputation was cemented by his performance as Alex, the leader of the Droogs, a gang who memorably killed a middle-class professor's wife with a giant phallus. It became a cult the moment its British release was mysteriously pulled by Kubrick himself.

Since then, Kubrick has laboured, somewhat unfairly, under the over-hyped subversive legacy it has engendered.

Kubrick was a meticulous film-maker by any standards. In his later films, he took months, sometimes years, to prepare a single film. He took 300 days to shoot *Barry Lyndon*, another visually magnificent piece of work, but an often slow adaptation of this minor Thackeray novel.

Equally exasperating for many Kubrick fans was his adaptation of Stephen King's *The Shining*.

Here Jack Nicholson slashes his way through a snow-bound hotel. Many didn't think much of Kubrick's odd excursion into the horror-fantasy genre. But the sheer emptiness of the film, with its surreal nightmarish angles, was as disturbing as the pyschopath himself.

With *Full Metal Jacket*, a dour adaptation of Gustave Hasford's novel, Kubrick returned to the military arena.

His Vietnam film is a harrowing account of the dehumanising effects of military training.

Few directors have ever divided critical opinion like Stanley Kubrick. His critics called him pretentious, fussy, intractable. But to many others he is a unique artist with a personal vision matched only by his brilliant way with a camera.

Career that opened the eyes of filmgoers



Lolita: introduction to controversy

1950-1: After working as a photojournalist for *Look* magazine, Stanley Kubrick made two short documentaries, **Day of the Flight** and **Flying Padre**, which he sold to RKO-Pathé for a modest profit. He did almost everything except act.

1953: Fear and Desire Kubrick's first feature was a virtually abstract war story made with money he borrowed from relatives and friends.

1955: Killer's Kiss A stylish black-and-white noir thriller shot on a $75,000 budget. Moody story about about a down-and-out boxer who saves a nightclub dancer from rape.

1956: The Killing Cruel vision of human greed and deceit in the aftermath of a robbery.

1957: Paths of Glory Kubrick's first prestige movie is a critique of military hypocrisy. Kirk Douglas is astonishing as the defender of condemned innocents.

1960: Spartacus Epic account of abortive slave revolt in Rome led by Kirk Douglas. All-star cast included Laurence Olivier and Charles Laughton.

1962: Lolita Kubrick first attracted wide controversy with portrayal of James Mason as the paedophile obsessed with Sue Lyon.

1964: Dr Strangelove; or, How I Learnt to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb Arguably Kubrick's most perfectly realised film. Scary and hilarious as it cynically follows the path to a nuclear armageddon, Peter Sellers magnificent in several roles.

1968: 2001: A Space Odyssey Beautiful, impenetrable science fiction movie about a computer that hijacks a space mission to Jupiter.

1971: A Clockwork Orange Brilliant, subversive film that colourfully exploited the debate on aversion therapy while revelling in the delinquent excesses of Malcolm McDowell and his droogs. Still banned in Britain.

1975: Barry Lyndon Triumph of technique over human content. Visually sumptuous journey of Thackeray's military hero through 18th-century Europe.

1980: The Shining Jack Nicholson slashes his way through a snowbound horror film whose tension is superbly exacerbated by the artfulness with which it is shot.

1987: Full Metal Jacket Kubrick's Vietnam movie, full of black irony, madness, and racial bigotry in the ranks of the US Marines. With Matthew Modine and Adam Baldwin.



Dr Strangelove: scary and hilarious

Final film that meant everyone had to wait

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

As a stunned Hollywood mourned Stanley Kubrick yesterday, admirers were left wondering if the extraordinary exertions of his final film may have hastened his death.

With few details released about the film-maker's final hours, attention in the city where he was revered as an icon of the post-war era focussed on the marathon production schedule of *Eyes Wide Shut*, a psychological drama starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman in which Kubrick's perfectionism reportedly found new extremes.

The director worked ceaselessly for 19 months on a closed set near his St Albans home to create the sexually explicit tale of two psychiatrists married to each other but each involved in affairs with their patients. Given unlimited time by Warner Brothers — a sign of respect afforded to no other working director — Kubrick filmed for six times longer than the average studio project requires, exposing a million feet of celluloid and spending $65 million (about £40 million), much of which went on accommodating actors in expensive hotels as they waited for scenes to be shot.

Harvey Keitel had to be replaced by Sydney Pollack because after two months of waiting he had to leave to fulfill another commitment. Kidman waited for months at a time, working for barely 12 months of the shoot.

Only Kubrick was constantly busy, rehearsing for days for individual scenes, according to Alan Cumming, the British actor, and thinking nothing of shooting 60 takes to be sure one would meet his exacting requirements in the editing room. Reports of frayed tempers and expiring patience leaked frequently from the set but Cruise and Kidman have never wavered in their public admiration for his workaholic methods.



Kidman: she waited for months in admiration

The film is to be released in the America on July 16. Warner Bros announced last year. Its gestation will have been short compared with Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which took four years to film. But its premiere will be an occasion unique in Hollywood history: an unprecedented merging of hype and mourning at which the star of the occasion will be absent.

Family burnt beyond recognition

BY PETER GLEESON, STUART TENDLER AND ANNIE FLURY

POLICE may need up to a week to properly identify the family of seven killed by an arsonist because of the severity of the blaze.

Yesterday police said that sophisticated techniques, including DNA testing, may have to be used to identify the two women who were killed, a 22-year-old man and three children. Police have now appealed for anyone who was near the three-storey house in the two hours before the fire to come forward. Scotland Yard said that officers were looking at a number of lines of inquiry but refused to comment further.

Detectives from the murder team have also spoken to neighbours of the family in Bellamy Road, Chingford, Essex, and questioned them about any links between members of the family and drugs. One neighbour, who refused to give his name, said: "Police have been to the home before. This is a council estate and there are quite a few unsavoury characters about. But for God's sake, if someone's got a problem with someone else, let them sort it out between themselves. There's no need to bring an entire family into it."

Linda Lewis, 25, a next-door neighbour, said she would never forget the screams of the children and the sight of a women at the window of the burning house pleading for help.

She said: "I heard screaming. I thought they were arguing. Then I heard the kids crying. I jumped out of bed and looked out of the window and I saw her screaming to me to help her.

"Then the screaming and crying had stopped. You couldn't see them any more."

Stunned neighbours and friends visited the eerie, charred remains of the family's home to pay their respects to those who had been killed and more than 100 floral tributes were laid in front of the house. One large bouquet had been left from the firefighters who tackled the fire with a card which read: "Our deepest sympathy from all staff at Chingford Fire Station."

The fire is believed to have been started by someone who poured petrol through the letterbox and police have removed a red plastic petrol container found at the scene for forensic tests.

Four generations, including a boy aged two and twin four-year-old girls, died in the attack, all from smoke inhalation. Only one person, a 52-year-old grandfather, escaped the blaze. He suffered burns to his hands and was released from hospital yesterday.

Special prayers were said for the victims yesterday in local churches. Detective Superintendent James Moore Sutherland said: "This is a horrific attack on innocents. This is the worst I have seen in 31 years in the job."

Minister to tackle anti-gay behaviour on and off pitch

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BANKS, the Sports Minister, is to head a concerted drive against homophobia in football that could result in new laws aimed at banishing anti-gay behaviour on and off the pitch.

The initiative could see players automatically sent off for homophobic abuse, in the same way that racist language has for the first time this season become a red-card offence.

Mr Banks made clear yesterday that he wanted to use the exchanges between two England internationals, Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux, a week ago to force football clubs and the game's authorities to face up to the issue. "We have a problem and I think we should use this particular incident to have an adult discussion about homophobia in sport," he said.

Although he wanted to see what suggestions the game's governing bodies and players' representatives came up with initially, he said that he did not rule out government legislation at a future date.

"This is the start, we are at the beginning of a process. Let's see whether we can resolve this and see what steps we need to take before we decide if we need to go to the argument of legislation," he told BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*.

Mr Banks, talking to *The Times*, pointed out that Fowler's part in last weekend's incident, which Le Saux, who is married with a baby daughter, complained about, amounted to homophobic incitement and have constituted a breach of the peace had it happened outside a football ground.

Teachers demand Woodhead inquiry

John O'Leary on reports that the Chief Inspector had an affair with a pupil

LEADERS of teachers' unions called for an inquiry yesterday into allegations that Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, had an affair with a pupil in his days as a teacher. The move comes after claims from his former wife that he lied about the relationship to save his job.

Mr Woodhead issued a public denial last month that he and Amanda Johnston had an affair while they were teacher and pupil at Gordano School, near Bristol, in the 1970s. Both said that a nine-year relationship began only after Ms Johnston had dropped out of East Anglia University.

Yesterday, however, the Chief Inspector's former wife, Cathy, insisted that he had confessed to her in 1976 that he was having an affair with a sixth-former. In a lengthy article in *The Mail on Sunday* she claimed that he had even suggested that Ms Johnston should move into the family home with their 15-month-old daughter.

Mrs Woodhead rejected the suggestion and divorced her husband the following year. She said that she had decided to break a 23-year silence on the episode because the Chief Inspector's public statements were "effectively denying the reality of what was for me a profoundly painful experience". She said: "My silence has con[illegible]. I feel I have protected him long enough."

[illegible] spokesman [illegible] Mr Woodhead would [illegible] teachers' leaders said that the Chief Inspector [illegible] he had lied [illegible].

[illegible] West London [illegible] yesterday, Mr [illegible] he and Ms [illegible] had already given [illegible] of the affair. "I [illegible] statement in [illegible] what my ex-wife says, [illegible] nothing to add."

[illegible] teachers' leaders demanded a full explanation. [illegible], general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "I think that if his ex-wife is saying he has lied in public, simply for him to say 'no comment' is not an adequate response."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "I cannot see how the Government can avoid holding an inquiry into the accuracy or otherwise of what the Chief Inspector has been saying. I cannot see how he can stay in his post if it is demonstrated that he lied in public."

The call for a government inquiry was backed by John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association. "The position of Ofsted, which affects the lives of so many teachers and children, means we must have someone of integrity at the head of it. If what Mr Woodhead has said is proved not to be true, this is not the case."

Legislation now before Parliament would make teachers liable to imprisonment if they had sex with a pupil. It was that which prompted the original row last month, when Mr Woodhead told a student at Exeter University that, though inadvisable, such affairs could be "educative and experiential on both sides".

The Chief Inspector later apologised for the remark and said that it did not reflect his true feelings. He did not approve of such affairs and, challenged on his own relationship with Ms Johnston, insisted that nothing improper had taken place while she was a pupil.

Mrs Woodhead said in her article: "At first, I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Then I was simply incensed. Yes, I thought, while you were away being educative and experiential with someone else, I was looking after our baby daughter. He angered me further by repeating his lies about when the affair started, thus effectively denying the reality of what was for me a profoundly painful episode."

The couple's daughter, Tamsin, 23, has been staying with her father during the furore.


Mr and Mrs Woodhead on their wedding day


St John Ambulance volunteers help an injured Derby player in the weekend's FA Cup quarter final against Arsenal

St John hit by volunteer shortage

By Susie Steiner

THE St John Ambulance service is launching a national recruitment drive, saying that its future is in doubt after haemorrhaging volunteers at a rate of about 4,000 a year. The service provides first-aid cover at major events, relying on 57,000 workers to offer their services free.

Philip Gee, director of training and operations, blamed the crisis on the pressures of modern life. "There are more demands on people's time. People work longer hours. Their leisure time is very precious and there is so much more they can do with it nowadays."

Referring to a 14 per cent drop in the number of young cadets, Mr Gee said: "You wonder how many of them are surfing the Net."

Events such as Wimbledon, the Grand Prix at Silverstone, the London Marathon and Notting Hill Carnival rely on the presence of St John Ambulance staff to satisfy the legal requirement to provide first aid. The charity does not charge a fee but relies on donations.

The service's volunteers treat about 150,000 casualties a year. St John staff also helped in the clear-up after the Omagh bombing and have provided back-up after terrorist attacks in London. Closure would force event organisers to turn to the commercial sector, where one first aider can cost up to £300 per weekend. The cost of replacing the service is estimated at £40 million a year.

This month's recruitment drive hopes to bring in 5,000 volunteers through increased publicity and open days. "The problem is that people won't miss us until we are not there," Mr Gee said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Refilling of lighter leads to death

A man who accidentally set his clothes on fire while refilling a cigarette lighter died in hospital on Saturday. Christopher Piper, 35, who was with his wife at their home in Fleet, Hampshire, tried to extinguish the flames but in doing so started three separate fires. A neighbour's car also caught alight after he climbed out of a window as neighbours tried to douse the flames. Mrs Piper suffered serious burns to her hands and feet.

Girl's last hours

Police were trying to discover the last hours of Rebecca Storrs, 18, found battered to death on a river bank in Bridgend, South Wales, on Saturday after going out with friends on Friday night.

McDonald op

The newscaster Sheena McDonald, 44, has had plastic surgery to her face as she continues to improve after being knocked unconscious by a police van nine days ago in Islington, North London.

Policeman loses

Alan Caulfield, who claimed he had been denied promotion in the Lothian and Borders Police because he was English, has lost his racial discrimination case. The tribunal findings will be given today.

Baby inquiry

Detectives were questioning a man of 26 after the death of a baby boy at Nuneaton. Warwickshire police said that the death was being treated as suspicious. Police were alerted by ambulance staff.

Pop challenge

Belle and Sebastian, winners of the best newcomer prize in the Brit music awards, may have to give up their title. The producer Pete Waterman is to complain that their previous chart successes ruled them out.

Planned pregnancy 'not always for best'

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

WOMEN who become pregnant without planning to do so are more likely to have a happier life than women whose pregnancies are carefully planned.

Researchers at Glasgow University have found that women with unplanned pregnancies had far greater chances of cementing relationships with their partner, family and friends, of improving their work and social life, and even of getting better housing.

The findings could have far-reaching implications for family planning organisations and for women facing decisions about contraception and pregnancy. They suggest that there are powerful factors driving some women to get pregnant, even though they may not realise it at the time.

Elizabeth Campbell, of the university's department of psychological medicine, said: "We are not suggesting that women deliberately become pregnant to achieve these secondary gains but it does seem that women with something substantial to gain from pregnancy are those who end up by having 'unplanned' pregnancies."

That suggested that couples having a sexual relationship ought openly to discuss the possibility of pregnancy, even if they were not planning to have a child, so that they would be prepared if it did occur. "It probably means that men will have to take greater responsibility for contraception," she added.

The study, published in the March issue of the *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, was based on interviews with 128 women. Eighty one per cent of women who had unplanned pregnancies were found to be in situations of high or some possible gain from motherhood before they became pregnant. Only 16 per cent of the planned pregnancy group had high secondary gain ratings.

Chris Evans tries again for tabloid

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

CHRIS EVANS, the maverick disc jockey whose ambition turned him into a media mogul, has made a new bid for a stake in the *Daily Star*.

Express Newspapers, which owns the tabloid title, confirmed yesterday that Ginger Media, Mr Evans's company, had made an approach to Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News and Media, the paper's holding company, but that so far no deal had been struck.

Mr Evans, who bought Virgin Radio from Richard Branson in 1997, is said to have offered Lord Hollick a 16 per cent share of his Ginger Media Group as a straight swap for the *Daily Star*, which sells about 540,000 copies daily and is famed for its laddish mixture of football, showbusiness and scantily clad women.

But Express Newspapers' financial experts are baulking at the proposal, fearing that the cost of running printing presses for the Express titles alone would be too high.

Mr Evans, whose Ginger Productions makes television prgrammes, is said still to be keen on the idea of expanding his media empire and may make another bid in the future.

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TV 'sting' puts rare bird in custody row

Park duped into selling macaw fears for species' future, write Peter Gleeson and Audrey Magee

A RARE Illiger macaw is at the centre of a custody dispute after being bought by a bogus company in a television "sting" that has backfired on the programme-makers.

The parrot, named Pimpernel, was sold by one of Britain's leading wildlife parks after it was led to believe the bird would go to Ireland to be bred with a mate of the same species.

The programme was organised by Carlton Television, which believed that Pimpernel was heading for a leading parrot sanctuary in Ireland. Instead, the bird is now being kept in a house in Dublin by a former circus worker who was hired by the programme-makers.

Pimpernel is with a mate but its partner is a female Hahn's macaw, a different species, which has angered conservationists. Despite a ruling by the Broadcasting Standards Commission that Paradise Park in Cornwall was unfairly duped into selling Pimpernel, the park has been unable to get the bird back.

The parrot tug-of-love follows a Carlton documentary in October 1997 on the way zoos dispose of surplus animals. 20-20 Television, the programme-makers, paid Ray Cimino, a self-styled Dublin animal rights activist, to pose as a dealer for a company called Wildlife Direct. Most zoos refused to deal with him but Paradise Park was one of two organisations which sent a list of available animals.

Cimino, described in the programme as a "leading Irish animal consultant", paid £400 for the bird, a native of north-east Brazil and Argentina, in a secretly filmed deal. Paradise Park has built up a reputation as a major Cornwall tourist attraction and has 462 birds of 126 species.



Illiger macaws are in danger of extinction

Mike Reynolds, who has owned the park since 1973, complained to the Broadcasting Standards Commission that he only sold the bird because he was given firm assurances about its welfare.

In December, the Commission agreed the programme had been unfair in several key respects. Its ruling stated: "Paradise Park's track record suggests that they were acting in good faith on the information they had been given in relation to the sale of the parrot. Although they may have been naive in taking their dealings with Wildlife Direct at face value, there was no suggestion of any illegal behaviour or cruelty."

Mr Reynolds, the founder of the World Parrot Trust, a body aimed at helping to save over 30 different endangered parrot species, has now switched his energies to getting Pimpernel back. But despite twice writing to Mr Cimino offering to buy the parrot back, it remains in Dublin.

Mr Reynolds said: "We want it back. I want to get it out of this mess. Mr Cimino has paired it up with a bird of a different species. He's about to breed hybrids, which is not a good idea."

Carlton, which was criticised in January for showing faked scenes in a documentary on the Colombian drugs trade, has consistently maintained that the bird was living in a top parrot sanctuary in Ireland, housed at the Irish Parrot Rescue Trust. In evidence to the broadcasting watchdog, Carlton said: "The parrot is in a substantially improved physical and mental condition since its purchase by the programme-makers."

But Cimino says he is keeping the two year-old parrot in his two-bedroom house in a run-down part of Dublin's north inner city. In keeping with the area, Mr Cimino has changed the parrot's name to "The Gurrier", Dublin slang for a troublesome youth.

Mr Cimino insists that the parrot is perfectly healthy and happy. He refuses to return the bird, which measures about 18 inches from head to the tip of its tail, to Paradise Park until Mr Reynolds guarantees that the bird will be found an alternative home, inspected and approved by the Irishman. He said: "They want the parrot but they have no legal claim or title over it. I paid them for it and they were prepared to take the money."

He dismisses Mr Reynolds's claims that the parrot needs to be with another Illiger Macaw for mating and companionship as "utter nonsense." But Tony Juniper of Friends of the Earth, a leading parrot expert, recommended that the bird be returned to England.

He said: "A domestic house in Dublin, compared to Paradise Park, is not an alternative. The breed is vulnerable to extinction. To have it with a different species is not sensible."

JOHN COGILL

Ray Cumino insists that Pimpernel is better off in his two-bedroom house in Dublin than at Paradise Park

'Headless man' in legal threat to biographer

By Gillian Harris
Scotland Correspondent

A MAN alleged to be at the centre of one of Britain's most sensational divorce scandals is said to be threatening legal action against a biographer who intends to reveal his identity in a book later this year.

Michael Thornton, who has been working on his biography of the late Duchess of Argyll for 13 years, has received more than a dozen letters from lawyers acting for the man whom he believes appeared in photographs used in court as evidence of the duchess's "multiple adultery".

He was one of 88 men cited by the the 11th Duke of Argyll as his wife's lovers. They included three members of the Royal Family, two Cabinet ministers and three actors. During the hearing in 1963, the most fevered speculation surrounded the identity of the "headless man" who featured in two shots which cut him off at the neck but showed the duchess performing a sex act while wearing nothing but a string of pearls.

Mr Thornton, 58, who became a close friend of the duchess, says that he is prepared to name the man in his book, *Argyll versus Argyll*, to be published by Michael Joseph. He told *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper: "He persists in denying it but I have the evidence now."



The duchess: husband said she had 88 lovers

Mr Thornton said that he had been able to confirm the man's name through material from private files belonging to Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, who died last week. Lord Denning, who conducted an inquiry into the Profumo scandal in the 1960s, discovered political and aristocratic connections with the Argyll case.

The Argyll family has always declined to comment on the divorce. The duchess died in London in 1993.

New magazine for women not the write stuff

New journal is said to be outdated and unfortunately named, report Alex O'Connell and Imogen O'Rourke

A MAGAZINE for women writers that has received £70,000 in lottery funding has been criticised by the female literati for its "unfortunate" title and "outdated" manifesto.

Mslexia was founded on the premise that there is something rotten in the state of publishing. Footnotes beneath the magazine's editorial explain that: "Dyslexia is a difficulty, more prevalent in men, with reading and spelling. Mslexia is a difficulty, more prevalent in women, with getting published."

The sickness metaphor is extended throughout the magazine — writers are called PWDs (Persons with Writing Disorders) and a Dr Ingrid K fronts a "Word Surgery", to which women can send their writing for criticism.

Mslexia, which is launched today, promises to provide "information, guidance and inspiration for published and unpublished authors and improve the quality and standing of women's literature."

But women writers, including Fay Weldon, have argued in the past that niche publishing should be careful not to "perpetuate victimisation and complaint". Although the magazine may be praised by the *Spare Rib* generation, many women in publishing are puzzled by its tone and title. *Mslexia's* guest editor, Michele Roberts, who has chosen a selection of erotic fiction for the first issue, said: "The title is most unfortunate and implies that being a woman is a kind of disability."

Claire Rayner, the broadcaster and writer, laughed when told of the magazine's name. "It is a ridiculous title and is going to mean the very opposite of what the editors think it is," she said.

Beryl Bainbridge, the winner of this year's WH Smith literary prize, was put off by Dr Ingrid K's column, which aims to stamp out readers' clichés and rewrite sloppy copy.

"This is a cliché," Bainbridge said, pointing to Dr Ks phrase "model wife". The novelist also took exception to a line that referred to the tendons at the base of a woman's "smooth throat".

"If her throat was really smooth he wouldn't know about her tendons," she said.

A woman literary agent who asked not to be named said: "We have been there and done that and now women are just getting on with things. I don't think they are cowering at home too scared to take their manuscript out from under the mattress, as the tone of this magazine implies."

Mslexia's editor, Debbie Taylor, a former editor of *New Internationalist*, hit upon the idea for the magazine while working on an annual journal of women's writing. She was shocked to see that there were more than 3,000 submissions, but only 600 subscribers. At the same time, she noted, *Writer's News*, a practical guide, had a readership of 18,000.

"I realised that people didn't so much want to read avant-garde fiction as get to see their own work published," she said.

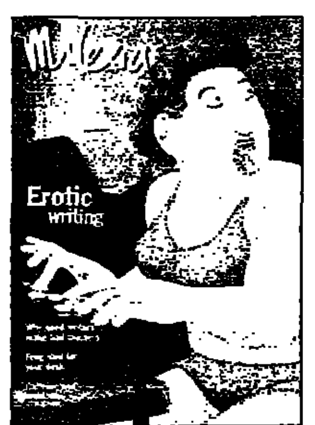
Ms Taylor told funding bodies that the publishing world was dominated by men and that women were less confident about approaching publishers.

"They tend to hesitate before sending a manuscript unless they think it's very very good," she said.

Ms Taylor received a three-year grant from Arts 4 Everyone, combined with funding from the lottery and Northern Arts. By 2001, she hopes, *Mslexia* will be able to pay its own way on subscriptions.

But Sally O'Sullivan, the founder of *Cabal*, said that Ms Taylor had a tough job ahead and that she would be interested to see how the magazine's circulation developed.

"Successful writers aren't that helpful when it comes to giving advice about how to write. It is such a lonely business that it is quite hard to be fascinating about it," Ms O'Sullivan said.



The first issue of *Mslexia* focuses on erotic fiction


STUART OUTTERSIDE
Paper ceiling: Debbie Taylor says that women hesitate to send manuscripts to publishers

Oxford's dead poets' society is resurrected

Robin Young reports on a reprieve for the best of British verse

THE apparently dead poets' society at Oxford University Press managed an almost miraculous resurrection yesterday.

Oxford Poets, the poetry list of 26 well-known versifiers that OUP had publicly condemned on the grounds that its sales had to be subsidised, will live on thanks to an agreement between the university and Carcanet Press, which specialises in poetry.

OUP is owned by Oxford University and makes about £6 million for the university each year, but the OUP board of directors had decided that *Oxford Poets* was an unjustifiable drain on their revenues. OUP's core activity is described as "publishing of scholarly and educational work in pursuit of the university's objectives", and it began publishing contemporary poetry only in the 1960s.

Among the 26 poets currently published in the *Oxford Poets* list are Peter Porter, D. J. Enright, Fleur Adcock, Thomas Kinsella, Michael Donaghy, Alice Oswald, Jo Shapcott and Jamie McKendrick.

The decision to abandon the publication of their efforts angered poets and their readers, including many eminent academics. Jon Stallworthy, the Oxford Professor of English Literature and editor of the *Oxford Book of War Poetry*, who is himself a Carcanet-published poet, accused the OUP delegates of "an act of vandalism".

Now the OUP has agreed that an editorial board appointed by the the university's English faculty and chaired by a faculty member will work with OUP and Carcanet to improve both the standard and the publishing returns of *Oxford Poets*.

Henry Reece, OUP's chief executive, denied that the deal with Carcanet represented a change of heart, saying: "We have been trying to find a solution that keeps the poetry list together for the last six months. This promises to be an excellent partnership and will appeal to all those concerned about the widest possible dissemination of poetry."

Michael Schmidt, Carcanet's manager and editorial director, said: "It is a particular pleasure to play a part in the *Oxford Poets* list which, with Faber's, is the best list of contemporary poetry in English."


Lewis and Tolkien had weekly meetings at the pub but frequently popped in for an impromptu drink

Oxford pub keeps literary tradition alive

BY HANNAH BETTS

THE Oxford pub where J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis held weekly literary meetings is backing *The Times* Free Books For Schools scheme in an attempt to create a new literary tradition.

The Eagle and Child, known to generations of students as the Bird and Baby, hosted the Lewis-Tolkien coterie between 1946 and 1967. The group, known as the Inklings, held official meetings every Tuesday lunchtime but frequently popped in for impromptu drinking sessions. C.S. Lewis's chair remains in the bar and is Oxford's prime target for tourist bottoms.

Several of Lewis's books, including braille and audio versions, are included in the Free Books for Schools scheme, which offers a range of titles in exchange for tokens from News International newspapers and Walkers snackfoods.

There has been speculation that passages from *The Hobbit* and the Narnia stories were composed in the Eagle and Child, inspired by a heady combination of alcohol and male bonding.

However Paul Yuill, the licensee, is wary of such claims. "They just got drunk a lot and talked nonsense — a tradition that is still going strong," he said.

"But it was certainly their influence that made us decide that collecting tokens might help to us to generate the literary giants of the future." The idea came from a regular customer who remembers the Inklings from his undergraduate days. The Eagle and Child has since collected more than 2,000 tokens for St Barnabas's in Jericho, a local school.

The campaign has been helped by the C.S. Lewis Society during its weekly meetings in the pub, and by the Cryptics, a latter-day Inklings made up of literature dons, doctors and poets.

The Eagle and Child is also doing its bit to help an older generation of potential writers. In a forthcoming bar quiz, the pub is offering a prize of £1,000, matching the cost of first-year tuition fees.

Call 0171-895 9018 (office hours only) with your tales of token-collecting successes in the Free Books for Schools campaign. There is also a helpline for more information about the scheme itself on 0845-604 0312.



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Paedophiles turn attention to East Europe

In Prague a child costs the price of a burger, and abusers are flooding in, writes Adam Fresco

A GROWING number of British paedophiles, some just out of prison, are travelling to Eastern Europe to buy youngsters for the price of a takeaway burger.

The sudden increase in activity comes after a clampdown by the authorities in Thailand and the Philippines, traditional haunts of child abusers.

Detectives say paedophiles have targeted Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, because it is only a few hours away and the police there are not yet geared up to deal with the sudden influx of offenders.

Scotland Yard believes paedophiles are travelling to Eastern Europe up to 700 times a year to abuse children of poverty stricken parents, who will hand over their sons and daughters for food or drink. Police intelligence suggests that one paedophile can abuse up to 20 children in a single trip.

A former Radio 1 disc jockey is to appear in a Prague court this week on charges involving boys under 15, the age of consent there. Chris Denning, 57, was allegedly followed after leaving Britain by the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), which alerted the authorities in Prague. He denies the charges.

Prosecutions are rare because the men are difficult to track. Even though sex offenders in this country have to sign a sex register on their release from prison it does not stop them from travelling abroad.

And although the Sex Offenders Act of 1997 gave British authorities the ability to prosecute paedophiles for crimes committed abroad, there has not been a single prosecution. The Home Office says that is because it would prefer that people be dealt with in the country where the crime has been committed. The police also say that it could be difficult to make sure that witnesses travelled to Britain to give evidence.

A former detective with the Paedophile Unit at Scotland Yard said: "We can stop football hooligans going abroad but not paedophiles. Poverty in the East European countries makes it a popular choice for them. The children are cheap."

One of Britain's most dangerous paedophiles is still being hunted by British police after disappearing on his release from prison in June 1997 without signing the Sex Offenders Register. He is believed to be in Eastern Europe.

Warwick Spinks, 34, served 30 months of a seven-year sentence for drugging and kidnapping a 14-year-old boy from Yorkshire and taking him to Amsterdam where he was sold to a gay brothel. The youngster was able to escape and alerted the authorities.

Described as the "Pied Piper" of child molesters, on his release from prison he sent his probation officer a mocking postcard from Gatwick saying he was leaving the country. He can be sentenced in this country to six months imprisonment or a fine of up to £5,000 for not signing the register and letting police know his whereabouts.

> ‘Parents hand over sons and daughters for food or drink’

Predatory paedophiles, so called because they will do anything and travel anywhere to get into a position whereby they can abuse children, have been abandoning their former haunts in the Far East. The authorities in the Philippines and Thailand are policing areas where paedophiles are known to congregate, making it harder for them to procure children. In July last year John Pidden, a 49-year-old Briton, was jailed for 14 years in the Philippines for abusing an eight-year-old boy.

Prague is much nearer, only two hours' flight away, and a few pounds goes a long way in the Czech Republic.

Wayne Smith, head of the NCIS Special Crime Unit, said: "Predatory paedophiles are very dangerous. They will go to extreme lengths to satisfy their desires. They do not see there is anything wrong with their activity.

"We make intelligence logs and last year we made 340 logs of individuals travelling abroad, although not necessarily different individuals. That is 20 per cent more travelling through Europe abusing children than in 1997.

"Because we obviously don't always know when they are travelling the number could be as high as 600 or 700 instances of paedophiles travelling abroad," he said.

Paedophiles often exchange information and police believe they have even tried to organise conventions to discuss the best places to go and ways of avoiding the authorities. Mr Smith admitted that there was worrying evidence to show the number of paedophiles travelling abroad was increasing.

"It is a terrible picture. These are particularly dangerous people. The introduction of the Sex Offenders Act did not stop them abusing. They will offend, they need to offend, and unfortunately they will need to travel in order to satisfy their demands."



SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

The futuristic Leila Pearce design, modelled by Victoria Jacobson, another student

Secondhand clothes are fit for Caprice

By Claudia Joseph

CAPRICE, the supermodel who favours Versace lace dresses, is to stroll down the catwalk in a secondhand outfit recycled from a charity shop.

Fashion students from across the country have created a range of designs from materials such as transistor radios, bin-bags, quilted bedspreads and hessian sacks for a competition run by The Cancer Research Campaign. The judges include Jeff Banks, the designer and former *Clothes Show* presenter, and Caprice, who will model the winning design.

More than 200 students entered the competition, which is based on the theme Metamorphosis. Fifty-six have made it through the regional heats to have their creations modelled by professionals on Thursday afternoon at the American Intercontinental University in West London. The winner will spend two weeks gaining work experience with Mr Banks and Red or Dead, the fashion designers. Wayne Hemingway, chairman of Red or Dead, which began by recycling second-hand clothes and remodelled shoes in Camden Market, said: "This is something very close to our hearts."

Claudia McVie, south-west regional director of the charity and one of the judges, said: "The recycling fashion show is the perfect way to promote recycling. It allows us to introduce the great value for money our charity shops represent."

Among the entrants is Leila Pearce, 27, taking a degree in fashion and textile design at the University of the West of England in Bristol. She created leggings and a corset from ski-wear and a transistor radio circuit board, and a silver head-dress from rubber, elastic and LED lights. She said: "The design is based on transformer toys. It is looking at the future when people and technology will live harmoniously together."

Ashdown calls party to action for final time

By James Landale and Jason Allardyce


Paddy Ashdown speaking at the Liberal Democrats' conference in Edinburgh, where he urged members to put no limit to their ambitions for power

PADDY ASHDOWN urged the Liberal Democrats to have no limit to their ambitions for power as he set his party on an election footing for the last time as leader yesterday.

In his last speech to a national party gathering, he encouraged his activists gathered in Edinburgh to redouble their efforts in campaigning for this summer's local, regional and European polls.

And despite the recognition among many of the party faithful that yesterday marked the end of an era, Mr Ashdown mentioned his 11-year tenure only once.

In a pragmatic and unsentimental speech, he also delivered a thinly veiled warning to his successor — to be elected in August — that he or she should maintain the party's current strategy of limited cooperation with Labour. The Liberal Democrats, he said, could not have an impact from the touchline: "We can only do it as players on the field."

Mr Ashdown set out his party's terms for a possible coalition with Labour in the forthcoming Scottish parliament. If Labour was not interested in investing more in education, they should "not even bother to pick up the phone", he said.

In a speech lasting just under an hour, Mr Ashdown attacked Labour's uncertainty and unwillingness to be bold. "Time and again this Government ducks the really big issues," he said.

"The Prime Minister will tell Richard and Judy what to do about Glenn Hoddle but he won't tell us what he'll do about the euro."

Labour, he said, boasted that it roared like a lion: "But far too frequently it squeaks like a mouse. I do not doubt new Labour's good intentions but I despair at their lack of ambition. We can do better. We can be better."

The party was embarked on a "voyage to a new political world" created by the devolved Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, the introduction of the euro and other constitutional reforms.

But he gave warning: "The changes we have begun could lead to a more open, more tolerant, more liberal Britain or they could be just another brief fluttering of hope, quickly lost through lack of ambition and a shortage of boldness in those who lead us." He urged the party faithful: "Be ambitious for the Liberal Democrats. But above all be ambitious for Britain."

Mr Ashdown said the forthcoming elections were among the most important ever in Britain, creating "a whole new political settlement" for the country.

"These elections will decide not just who governs but how we are governed. After these elections, Britain will never be the same again. The Government of Britain will be more decisively and irreversibly closer to its people."

PADDY'S PARTY PIECES

- ☐ New Labour boasts that it roars like a lion. But far too frequently it squeaks like a mouse. — Edinburgh 1999
- ☐ We must search for the heroes inside ourselves. — Nottingham 1996
- ☐ You cannot agree with a blank sheet of paper. — Glasgow 1995
- ☐ Let me tell you what I fear after the next General Election. I fear a Government empty of ideas and devoid of reforming radicalism. I fear a Government which continues to avoid a whole-hearted commitment to our European future. — Brighton 1994
- ☐ *There is no glass ceiling for the Liberal Democrats. — Blackpool 1993*
- ☐ There is an old rhyme that sums up Labour. Something borrowed, a lot that's blue, too much that's old and nothing new. — Bournemouth 1991
- ☐ Labour is the music of Dire Straits, the Tories are the music of Simple Minds, but we are the New Kids on the Block. — Bournemouth 1991
- ☐ Where Labour betray Britain as well as themselves is in their failure of courage: the weakness, the narrowness and the timidity of their vision. — Blackpool 1990
- ☐ This party is back on the road and travelling upwards. — Brighton 1989

Just don't mention that contest

By James Landale
Political Correspondent

FOR the Liberal Democrat faithful gathered in Edinburgh a helpful badge had been included in the conference pack. "My vote — up for grabs," it said simply. The accompanying instructions declared: "Wear this badge around the bars and make sure you get spotted by one of those MPs who 'isn't standing for leader'."

That was one of the few public, albeit tacit, acknowledgements that this weekend was a leadership contest that dare not speak its name. Officially no one is campaigning, positioning, or lobbying to become Paddy Ashdown's successor. All MPs — potential candidates and their footsoldiers — have been firmly instructed to keep their mouths shut. Two new boys who foolishly allowed their allegiances to become public last week have been carpeted by Mr Ashdown. Nothing, they were told, should divert the party's attention from the local, regional and European elections in May and June.

Nothing should happen until Mr Ashdown formally announces his intention to stand down on June 11. Nominations must be in by June 28. Voting will not start until mid-July. Mr Ashdown, they emphasise, is going to be party leader until August 9, when his successor is announced. That is five months away.

The truth is that everyone at the spring conference was talking about nothing but the leadership. Potential candidates were seen buying endless rounds of drinks late into the night at the conference hotel. The conference hall mysteriously filled when young pretenders delivered speeches. Hypothetical election scenarios of extraordinary complexity were doing the rounds.

But amid the electioneering, Mr Ashdown was mischievous to the last. "I have changed my mind," he told the members. After a pause, he added: "Only joking, but what a lot of white faces there are."

Bell backs son-in-law's plan to fight his seat

By Mark Inglefield
Political Reporter


Peter Bracken with his wife, Melissa

MARTIN BELL, the BBC war correspondent turned politician, has welcomed an attempt by his son-in-law to replace him as MP for Tatton.

Peter Bracken, who is married to Mr Bell's eldest daughter, Melissa, told *The Times* yesterday that he wanted to become the Labour candidate for the Cheshire seat. His decision came on the day that the area's local Conservative Party finalised a shortlist of four candidates for the seat, which the Tories held by a majority of 20,000 until Mr Bell's victory at the last general election.

"I don't want to be seen as flying my kite but if I was offered Tatton it would be a great opportunity and honour to be its MP," Mr Bracken said.

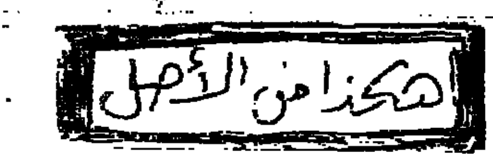
Mr Bell, who has pledged not to stand for a second term, said: "If he wants to stand and is selected then I wish him well. Tatton is the fourth safest Conservative seat in the country but I think the Conservatives are very wise not to take it for granted."

If Mr Bracken is selected by Labour he will have a tough fight on his hands. The Tories are determined to wrest back Tatton, which they lost when the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats stood down their candidates at the last election so that Mr Bell could fight the seat on an anti-sleaze ticket.

The then MP, Neil Hamilton, had been forced to resign as a minister because of his involvement in the cash for questions scandaland the Tories are determined to find a candidate who is as "clean as a whistle" to win back their former stronghold.

One of those tipped to make the final shortlist, which was being finalised yesterday, is George Osborne, William Hague's chief speechwriter. Mr Osborne will be pitched against a strong local candidate, Derek Squirrel, a former mayor of Knutsford.

Mr Bracken, 38, a former Army major, currently works for a headhunting agency. He and Melissa met during the 1997 election campaign, when she was working for her father and he was helping the Labour campaign. They live in Handforth and are expecting their first child.



In search of the 'holy water' of Antrim

They're a dying breed now, but Martin Fletcher tracked down one of Ireland's poteen makers



A glass of "mountain dew" is taken between the boiler, right, and the condenser, from which the pure poteen emerges as a crystal-clear liquid

IN A tiny, sweltering outhouse lit by a single lightbulb in a remote part of Co Antrim an old man chuckles as a crystal-clear liquid trickles from a spout at the bottom of a large blue barrel. For half a century Patrick has been making poteen, and another batch of his fiery, potent tipple is on its way. Don't drink it yet, he says. Wait till it gets weaker. The first litre or two is "poison" — so strong it would kill you.

I had been looking for one of the dying breed of poteen makers for weeks. Everyone knows how to get the stuff, even police and customs officers, but finding a maker is a different matter. Then one evening my telephone rang. "You're looking for a character?" a man's voice asked. "Meet me outside the bakery in Dunloy at 7pm tomorrow."

Dunloy is a nationalist village not many miles from Bushmills, where the world's first legal whiskey distillery was established in 1609. I sat in the darkness for half an hour until a car drew up alongside mine. A man with a baseball cap and two days' stubble wound down his window. "Hop in," said Sean, and for 15 minutes we wound through back lanes until we reached an isolated bungalow. "Yer man will be sizing you up before he talks," Sean warned. "He'll want to be sure of you." And in we walked to a spartan living room with a coal fire, a battered sofa and a few holy pictures on the wall.

Patrick (not his real name) was sitting in an upright chair, a genial fellow in his mid-seventies with white hair and bushy eyebrows. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren were watching television. He sat us down and dispatched a grandson to fetch us a glass of his "holy water" or "mountain dew". His wife bought tea and scones.

> 'I was that sick I didna' care if I died or no'

Patrick had learnt his art from the legendary Mickey McIlhatton, "King of the Glens", he told me in an accent so thick he might have been speaking Urdu. Indeed Sean had to translate. "I asked if I could watch him and he said 'aye'," recalled Patrick. "I watched and I thought I could do that myself."

In the old days, when people could not afford the legal stuff, he would produce 1,000 bottles a year. Now he makes barely 100, which he sells by word of mouth for £6 each. He has been caught twice. The first time he was fined £5 and the second, 30 years ago, £100. "If they caught me now it'd be jail," he reckoned, but there is little chance he will be.

The local police turn a blind eye. Customs officers are far more concerned about the quantities of alcohol, tobacco and diesel being smuggled into Northern Ireland from the South. A spokesman confirmed that poteen was "not a high priority", though he said that bad poteen could cause blindness and even death. Patrick was nearly caught a few years ago when security forces searching for arms stumbled across his brew in a neighbour's hen house, but with the Troubles over even that danger has receded.

He took us into a shed behind his house where two 20-gallon barrels of fermenting "wash" — sugar, treacle, grapes, raisins, yeast and water — were emitting a strong, sweet smell from beneath their canvas covers. His neighbours all knew when he was brewing, he chuckled.

After three weeks he strains the "wash" into a milk churn, carries it into the outhouse, and transfers it into a large steel boiler beneath which he places a propane gas ring. It takes an hour for the wash to start boiling. The steam is funnelled into a coiled copper pipe — the "worm" — that spirals down into the blue barrel, which is filled with cold water. The steam condenses and comes out through the spout as pure poteen. The entire "run" takes about three hours, and produces enough to fill a dozen gin or vodka bottles with a fluid twice as strong. Patrick no longer drinks poteen himself. He gave it up a few years ago after a fearful binge. "I was that sick I didna' care if I died or no," he said. His wife now does his tasting.

He knows of no one else in the area that still makes poteen, and none of his sons showed any interest, but he has taught one of his teenage grandsons, who fully intends to keep the art alive.

The evening became distinctly jolly, and ended with us performing various tests with Patrick's poteen. We lit pieces of newspaper covered in the stuff and watched it burn off with a bright blue flame while leaving the paper unsinged. We then did the same using our fingers. Happily the poteen passed both tests, and Sean and I walked out into into the night clutching a couple of bottles each as trophies.

Spirits are raised across the globe

By Robin Young

THOUGH there is some evidence that distillation was applied to ancient "beers" based on rice, millet or molasses as early as 800BC, spirits are relative latecomers to the West, post-dating wine and beer by many centuries.

Nonetheless almost every country or region, with the exception of central Africa, has evolved its own spirit based on the cheapest and most plentiful fermentable material available. The Celts of Ireland, Scotland and Wales were world leaders in distilling, developing whiskies made from alcoholic mashes of local grains, which fermented easily in the damp climate.

England's equivalent was gin, also derived from fermented grain. Unlike whisky, which is aged in wood to give it colour and flavour, gin was dosed with flavourings, principally juniper. England also has a small tradition of apple brandy, the best known varieties of which are from Normandy (calvados) or New England (applejack).

Vodka can be made from virtually anything, with grain, molasses and potatoes being the most common bases. In the Middle East palm sap, dates, grape juice, molasses and cereal are used in making arrack, raki and ouzo, which is usually flavoured with aniseed.

In Scandinavia and northern Germany the local spirit is akvavit or schnapps, grain or potato distillates sometimes flavoured with caraway, and Mexico has tequila from agave juice.

Sugar-producing countries make rum, and wine-producing countries make grape brandies (from wine) and grappa or marc (from pressed skins and pips). In parts of France, *eaux de vie* are still made from holly berries, sorb apples, sloe stones and wild blackberries.



'Chinese stole US missile secrets'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE United States Government is investigating charges that China stole nuclear secrets that enabled it to make massive leaps in the development of its nuclear arsenal.

The theft may have started as long ago as the 1980s and allowed China to improve weapons that had been a generation behind American missiles. As the Government confirmed the inquiry, it faced accusations that it had been slow to act on the allegations because of political sensitivities.

The federal authorities are investigating whether China used secrets stolen from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to produce small warheads that could be launched from a single missile at multiple targets.

The New York Times reported that the spying was believed to have happened in the mid-1980s but was not detected until 1995, when analysis of Chinese nuclear-missile tests found similarities to America's most-advanced miniature warhead, the W88.

"Currently there is an ongoing investigation to determine if there was criminal conduct, and we continue to assess the implications for national security," David Leavy, the White House National Security Council spokesman, said. But Tang Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, decried the allegations yesterday as baseless. He also warned Washington against placing Taiwan under a missile-defence umbrella, saying it would harm chances of a peaceful reunification. But Clinton Administration sources said that a Chinese-American suspect was identified at the US Energy Department's weapons laboratory in Los Alamos in 1996. It was not until this year that he was given a lie-detector test, which one official said he failed. He was not arrested, but last week was again questioned.

Officials said President Clinton was first told in 1997 that information may have been stolen in the mid-1980s by Chinese agents. But critics said the inquiry was delayed because the discoveries came as the Clinton White House was strengthening its links with China in the run-up to the President Jiang's visit to America in 1997 and Mr Clinton's China tour last year. Moreover, it came as Congress was investigating charges that Beijing had secretly funnelled money to the Democrats in the 1996 presidential campaign.

WIN McNAMEE / REUTERS



President Clinton with his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, during a 1997 summit news conference in Washington. The White House reportedly knew of the spy claims but tried to minimise them to ensure success at the talks

WORLD IN BRIEF

Thirty immigrants drown off Florida

Miami: In one of the worst immigrant smuggling disasters off the Florida coast, the US Coast Guard yesterday called off the search for more than 30 Haitians lost at sea after two overloaded boats sank on Saturday (David Adams writes). Three survivors told US officials that one of the two boats suffered mechanical problems about 30 miles east of West Palm Beach. When the second boat went to help, both ended up sinking. Neither boat had life jackets.

"It just reiterates the danger that's involved in smuggling," said Ron LaBrec, a Coast Guard spokesman. "These people leave in small boats that are generally unseaworthy, overcrowded and lacking in even the most basic safety gear." The tragedy comes after another smuggling incident in December when 13 Cubans drowned after a 29ft boat sank in 6ft seas about 20 miles south of Miami. Already this year, 587 Haitians and 406 Cubans have been intercepted off the US coast.

Uganda suspends treks

Kampala: The Ugandan Government has suspended treks to the habitat of rare gorillas after the murders last week of eight tourists, including four Britons, by Hutu rebels. The month-long suspension covers visits to both the Bwindi National Park, where the tourists were killed, and Mgahinga National Park, which is further south, as part of a mourning period, according to a directive from Brigadier Moses Ali, the Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry. *(AFP)*

Estonians go to polls

Tallinn: Estonians voted in a general election expected to produce a centrist coalition which will lead the country to European Union membership while attempting to kickstart a stalled economy. Though much is at stake, turnout appeared to be low. Opinion polls point to no clear winner. The 860,000 eligible voters were faced with a dizzying field when polls opened — 12 parties and 1,885 candidates, nearly 19 for each of the 101 parliamentary seats. *(Reuters)*

Versace 'HIV positive'



New York: A post-mortem examination of Gianni Versace, right, has revealed that the murdered fashion designer was hiding the fact that he was HIV positive, a book claims (James Bone writes). Maureen Orth writes in *Vulgar Favours*, an account of Andrew Cunanan's five killings across America in 1997, that Versace, a victim, concealed the diagnosis because he was seeking a stock market listing for his fashion empire.

India air crash kills 21

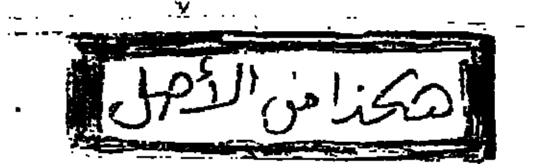
Delhi: An Indian Air Force Antonov 32 transport aircraft crashed outside the capital, killing 21 people — India's second air disaster in 48 hours. On Friday night an Air France cargo plane ploughed into a Madras runway, bursting into flames. All five people on board survived. The Antonov exploded after crashing on to a building site, sending burning fragments flying into workers' huts. Eighteen servicemen were among the dead. *(Reuters)*

Serbs fight for Brcko

Banja Luka: Milorad Dodik, the outgoing Bosnian Serb Prime Minister, urged an emergency session of parliament not to accept a Western ruling that failed to award the northern town of Brcko to the Serb republic. Mr Dodik resigned on Friday in protest at the international arbitration tribunal decision. Hardline and moderate deputies threatened to suspend their participation in the country's state parliament over the issue. *(Reuters)*

Crash singer 'critical'

Franklin, Tennessee: The country singer George Jones was in a critical condition after his car crashed into a bridge near his home while he was talking on a mobile phone to his stepdaughter. Jones, 67, lost control while rounding a bend in the road, state police said, adding that he was not wearing a seat belt. Jones is famous for hits such as *He Stopped Loving Her Today* and *The Race is On*. *(AP)*











Pol Pot's Butcher to face Cambodia trial

Ta Mok may be Khmer Rouge scapegoat, writes James Pringle in Beijing

TA MOK — Grandfather Mok — the last Khmer Rouge leader at large and perhaps the most brutal, was in custody in Phnom Penh last night amid indications that he would be put on trial as a scapegoat for all the sins of the murderous group, so letting other former leaders off the hook.

Charismatic and ruthless, Mok, known as "The Butcher", was a clever military man who took charge of bloody purges for the late Pol Pot. Unlike other Khmer Rouge leaders, he was a former peasant not a Paris-educated intellectual. He and his men carried out the purges, eliminating real or imagined enemies of "Angka", the sinister organisation that ruled Cambodia when the Khmer Rouge was in power — all at the behest of Pol Pot, whom he later betrayed.

Government officials, casting doubt on the likelihood of any Khmer Rouge leader facing an international court, said that Mok, arrested on Saturday, apparently on Thailand's northern border with Cambodia, would be prosecuted by a Cambodian court under Cambodian law. Khieu Kanharith, a government spokesman, said that it was unlikely Mok would be sent to an international tribunal after that.

Observers said that the domestic conviction of the most notorious remaining Khmer Rouge leader might stall the push for an international trial for other leaders such as "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, an intellectual who wrote the blueprint for the Khmer Rouge agrarian revolution that led to the deaths of 1.7 million Cambodians between 1975 and 1979. Both surrendered and were treated to a luxury tour of Cambodia by Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, before returning to the Khmer Rouge's former headquarters at Pailin, where they live in relative comfort.



Khmer Rouge regime left 1.7 million people dead

A team of United Nations jurists has recommended that 20 to 30 former Khmer Rouge be brought before an international tribunal for crimes against humanity and genocide. But, despite mounting calls for such a tribunal, Mr Sen — a former junior Khmer Rouge officer who broke away in 1977 — has urged caution, saying attempts to bring the leaders to trial could end the first period of peace Cambodia has known for 30 years.

"Mok is to be made a scapegoat for all the rest," said one Cambodian analyst.

In Pailin recently other former leaders said that, while they should not be tried for genocide because they had repented, Ta Mok should, as he was a hardliner. "All the people here in Pailin welcome the news of the Government's arrest of Ta Mok," a former Khmer Rouge official said last night.

Mok has only one leg, having lost the other in a tractor accident, not to through a mine. Yet he took care of his fighters who had been similarly maimed and for this his men, as one told this correspondent, "would do anything for him". He would, however, dispose of his enemies, often by poisoning.

Mok has maintained good relations with Thai military men in northeast Thailand, and used a vehicle with Thai military plates, bought rice for his troops there and had several safe houses.

Last year he seemed on the point of handing over Pol Pot to the Phnom Penh Government but, hearing this on Liberation Radio, the Khmer Rouge station, Pol Pot took his own life — unless, of course, he was poisoned by Mok.

BANGKOK POST / REUTERS



Ta Mok, known as The Butcher but inspiring devotion among his men, at a Khmer Rouge base in Cambodia in April last year.

Bomb blast at theatre kills six in Bangladesh

FROM AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA

TWO powerful bombs activated by a timing device destroyed part of a crowded theatre in western Bangladesh yesterday, leaving six people dead and 100 injured.

The explosions spread panic through the garrison town of Jessore, on the India-Bangladesh border, 170 miles west of the capital, Dhaka.

Bazlur Rahman, the local police chief, said: "The two bombs, believed planted by Islamic extremists, were hidden under a stage erected for the performing artists." One of the dead was a woman participant.

The performance had been organised by Udichi, a leading anti-fundamentalist cultural group which has been the target of attacks by militant Muslim clerics.

The bombing came ahead of a political rally in Dhaka yesterday addressed by Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, to mark the 28th anniversary of Bangladesh's declaration of independence.

Pressure grows on Japan to unmask its war criminals

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

GRUESOME medical experiments conducted on prisoners by the Japanese during the Second World War are behind mounting pressure on Tokyo to reopen a vast military archive and so help to identify surviving war criminals.

As many as 10,000 PoWs may have been victims of atrocities masterminded by General Shiro Ishii, commander of the Japanese Imperial Army's germ warfare division — Unit 731. Yet despite casualty numbers 12 times those of the Nazi Dr Josef Mengele, no Unit 731 veterans have been brought to justice.

Details of one of the war's darkest chapters were broadcast on US television last night in a documentary likely to cause as much embarrassment to American officials as to Japanese. Not for the first time, Americans were accused of covering up the scale of General Ishii's activities in return for acquiring his research results for the Pentagon's germ warfare programme.

Unit 731: Nightmare in Manchuria recounted how General Ishii began using anthrax, typhus and other deadly pathogens against Chinese soldiers in Manchuria in the 1930s. It also contained interviews with US survivors of Japanese prison camps there.

The film was based heavily on research by Sheldon Harris, a Californian history professor who pieced together details of Unit 731's activities from Chinese and Soviet records for a 1994 book, *Factories of Death*. The book, containing claims of prisoners being infected with germs and dissected alive, will be published in Japan this spring.

Professor Harris found no proof that Allied prisoners were subjected to the tortures, and it is known that some 100,000 Chinese soldiers bore the brunt. But last night's film alleged for the first time that there were American victims.

The US Justice Department has the names of more than 60,000 suspected German war criminals, all barred from entering the country. But only 100 suspected Japanese war criminals are known.



[illegible] — A timeline of Japan's germ warfare programme with links to other sites

[illegible] — Information on Unit 731 from the Advocacy & Intelligence Index for Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action

Colosseum's animal magic was high art

Rome's arena provided more theatre than bloodshed, writes Richard Owen



The Hollywood image of the Colosseum, as depicted in *Quo Vadis* with Peter Ustinov playing Nero, has now been questioned by archaeologists

THE Hollywood image of the Colosseum as a bare, sandy arena covered with the blood of wild beasts, gladiators and martyred Christians is largely mistaken, according to a team of German and Italian archaeologists who have spent three years studying the amphitheatre's underground chambers and corridors.

Heinz Beste, a German archaeologist, and Rossella Rea, an Italian archaeologist, say that the Colosseum was in fact "the greatest theatre of ancient times", able to stage "sumptuous entertainments" thanks to a highly sophisticated mechanism of moveable scenery and a complex system of hidden lifts, hoists and pulleys.

The result, Herr Beste said, was a daily programme of "spectacular shows". They did involve bloodshed, but not in the form of "duels to the death", which were a late-night speciality. Romans attending shows during the day were shown "amazing special effects" involving hundreds of actors and exotic animals. "It was a form of propaganda," Signora Rea said.

The aim was to impress Romans with the empire's foreign conquests by displaying the flora and fauna of Africa and Asia in a colourful piece of theatre. "It seems films such as *Quo Vadis* got it wrong," said *Il Messaggero*.

The Colosseum was commissioned in AD72 by the Emperor Vespasian (AD69-79), a professional soldier who despised his deranged and megalomaniac predecessor, Nero. Vespasian drained Nero's artificial lake and built the Colosseum on the site (a golden Colossus of Nero that stood nearby gave the amphitheatre its name).

Faced with Travertine marble, it seated 55,000 spectators, and was inaugurated in AD80 by Vespasian's son, the Emperor Titus, with an opening festival lasting 100 days. It became a ruin in medieval times, but restoration a hundred years ago revealed the structures beneath the arena.

The building is being further renovated for the millennium, at a cost of £15 million. Herr Beste said that the current restoration had enabled experts to examine the remaining structures "centimetre by centimetre". They had found evidence that the arena was covered with 3,588 square yards of wooden flooring, underneath which were sloping ramps operated by winches, each moved by eight slaves.

There was also evidence of a "dense network" of lifts behind the podium, with one placed every 3.8 yards and 24 giant trapdoors in the stage. The ramps and lifts would have produced hundreds of actors and animals "as if by magic".

The archaeologists said mornings and afternoons were devoted to animal shows, with gladiator fights only taking place late in the evening. In a typical daytime performance, spectators would have seen a "grove of palms and trees, rocky hills, pools, pavilions and colonnaded buildings" against a vividly painted backdrop. The stage would gradually fill with bears, wolves, lynxes, and wild boar, then lions, panthers, crocodiles, camels and elephants, "beasts which Romans had only seen in mosaics".

Signora Rea said that fights to the death were staged, both between hunters and animals, and between the animals themselves. "But many were trained and looked after, as in modern circuses", and animal fights were eventually banned altogether in AD523.

Adriano La Regina, the Superintendent of Archaeology, said that the stage machinery as re-created by the German-Italian team according to descriptions of spectacles witnessed by writers such as Martial and Suetonius, and there were plans to reconstruct the lifts and trap doors to stage shows in the Colosseum for the millennium — "but without the bloodshed".

He said that accounts of the Colosseum being flooded to stage mock sea battles were probably mistaken, however, since the elaborate underground mechanisms would have been damaged. The "sea battles" are now thought to have taken place across the Tiber, in a water-filled arena built by the Emperor Augustus (23BC-AD14), now buried beneath the streets of the Trastevere quarter.

Colonel robs bank for his savings

FROM ALICE LAGNADO IN MOSCOW

A FORMER colonel robbed a Moscow bank this week after his $20,000 (£12,000) life savings were wiped out by Russia's financial collapse.

Dmitri Setrakov, 66, walked into the Bank Rossiiski Kredit on Tverskaya Ulitsa, Moscow's equivalent of Oxford Street, at 10am on Friday with a hunting rifle and took the chief accountant hostage. He also threatened to blow up the bank. Terrified bank staff handed him the money in cash before he was arrested. No one was injured in the hold-up.

According to a report in the *Kommersant* newspaper, Colonel Setrakov's wife was seriously ill and needed the money for an operation. Colonel Setrakov had been trying to get at his money since September, using more traditional methods, but without success. His desperate move struck a chord with thousands of other Russians who lost their life savings or had them decimated when the country sank into financial crisis in August.

Even the police said they sympathised with the colonel. "People don't resolve to do such things without reason. He did the right thing, since banks will not give out money," a spokeswoman told the *Moscow Times*.

Those Russians who did have bank accounts were brave indeed. The banking system is not well established in Russia, with hundreds of banks to choose from and no way to tell how reliable they are. Many people still keep their money under the mattress at home.

This is the second such attempt the bank has seen. In December, Aleksandr Shreiber, 39, took three members of staff hostage while demanding his savings be returned. He surrendered after an hour.

There have been numerous other stories of similar hold-ups in other parts of Russia as people have turned to violence to try to get back what is theirs.

Others turned the violence in on themselves with several cases of pensioners hanging themselves. One of the saddest cases was that of Pavel Yulayev, 77, who collapsed and died at a bank in the Mordovia region in September when he saw that his savings had been frozen.

An estimated 32,000 Muscovites have sued banks, with some success: about 5 per cent of cases have been won, though judges are often paid off by bankers to prevent money from being handed over.

Anna Blundy, page 20

Kurds claim attack on helicopter

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL



Ecevit: hopes to capitalise on rebel leader's capture

AS Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's Prime Minister, and members of his Cabinet toured the country's southeast yesterday, boasting of gaining the upper hand in the war with Kurdish guerrillas, rebels claimed to have shot down an army helicopter, killing 20 soldiers.

The Germany-based Kurdish news agency DEM said all perished on the helicopter in the southeastern province of Hakkari, the latest strike in the war for autonomy that the rebels vowed would increase after the capture of their leader, Abdullah Ocalan. The military would not comment.

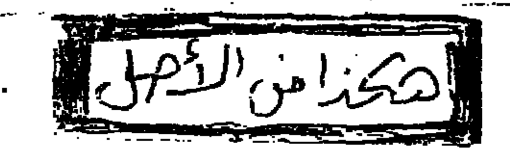
In the city of Diyarbakir, Mr Ecevit and his Cabinet discussed a regional aid package with officials. There were no meetings with local businessmen, who had been warned by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) to stay away.

The £70 million package is designed to encourage investment in a part of the country where the economy has been caught in the crossfire between security forces and the PKK. The Government hopes to capitalise in forthcoming elections on Mr Ocalan's capture in Kenya nearly three weeks ago.

With workers on the prison island of Imrali building a special courthouse to try Mr Ocalan, security forces across the country are on alert.

Earlier, Mr Ecevit said that police had detained a suspect in a car bombing last Friday in Cankiri, a town north of Ankara. A regional governor was seriously injured. Three people, including two girls, died.

☐ Bonn: Mr Ocalan blames Kenya for handing him over to Turkey, a lawyer said in a magazine interview published today. "He said he was not captured by Turkish forces but handed over by the Kenyans," said Ahmet-Zeki Okcueglu, an Istanbul lawyer seeking to represent him. *(AFP)*







Why must the British tabloids always mention the war?

INSIDE GERMANY

BY ROGER BOYES

Germany came under heavy bombardment from *The Sun* again last week. Richard Littlejohn compared euro membership to collaboration with the Nazis: Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Euro was the headline.

The Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, was accused elsewhere of having fun on television while the country went to rack and ruin ("Leaving his Government to crumble into the worst since Hitler's"). This week Rudolf Scharping, the Defence Minister, visits London, so perhaps we will get a few Luftwaffe jokes. Again.

Like the lonely Japanese soldier found in the jungle of Guam in the 1960s, the British tabloids are still out there somewhere fighting the war. The Germans know by now that they are supposed to be amused. If they fail to laugh they confirm the stereotype of humourlessness; if they do force a smile, they are masochistic German stereotypes.

Admittedly, German tabloids are learning to strike back but their efforts are feeble. Last week they carried a "passionately denied" story about British semen being inferior to German. Mainly though, revenge in Germany is a dish best eaten cold. *Bild* (circulation 4 million) is waiting quietly for the next case of mad cow disease before jumping on the British.

Correspondents here function as interpreters of the British psyche. We must field anguished inquiries from some shell-shocked Germans. What does it all mean? First, I explain, there is no evil master plan to humiliate Germany. Everybody gets it in the throat. An adviser to the last Chancellor once complained to me that his son was followed by calls of "Heil Hitler" from fellow pupils while at school in Brighton.

That, I replied, is the nature of the scrum. If you are fat, skinny, spotty, bright, spectacled, German, French, different in any way, you are a legitimate target: God Bless School. Tabloid culture merely extends bullying beyond adolescence. So: laugh. Sometimes I take a different line. I tell Worried of Wuppertal that she should study the anti-German edge in French, Dutch or Turkish papers. Germany is powerful and has many neighbours: naturally it attracts brickbats.

A new French bestseller by Philippe Delmas is titled *On the Next War with Germany*. Or I advise Nervous of Nuremberg that attacks on Herr Schröder are actually coded attacks on Tony Blair. Or that nobody reads foreign stuff in the tabloids. *The Sun* splashed Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, on its front cover, described him as the most dangerous man in Europe, and yet still some 80 per cent of Britons have no idea who he is or for what he stands.

But most of the knockabout tabloid content cannot be defended on any rational level; it is about conditioned responses. The big questions are whether we should get excited at all, whether relations suffer, and whether the war should stop being a journalistic point of reference.

Certainly the declaration of Michael Naumann, Herr Schröder's cultural co-ordinator, that the British are obsessed with the war suggests chancelleries and foreign ministries fret about words written by sub-editors brought up on commando comics.

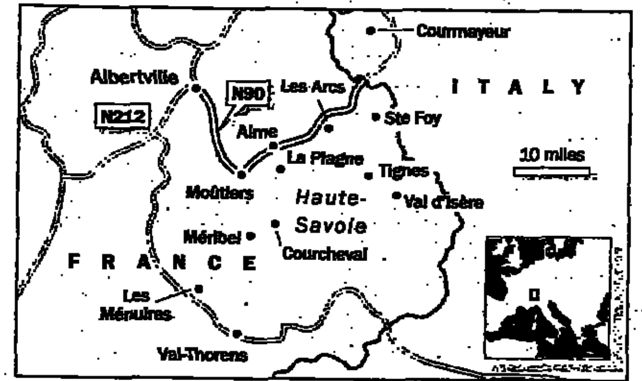
War metaphors are supposed to dramatise the political situation of plucky Britain standing alone against the euro, back to the wall. I heartily dislike this bluster, but understand it as part of the simplifying process ahead of a complex national decision on the euro rather than as a calculated affront to Germans.

Unlike Herr Naumann, I do not think the British war obsession is particularly unhealthy. The Germans are also obsessed by it. Every week there are television documentaries about some aspect of the Third Reich. Indeed the constitution was created as a counterweight to the Nazi era and so comparisons are valid: the Gestapo did this, so we, having learnt our lesson, do the opposite. I also think it legitimate to compare joblessness with the mass unemployment of the 1930s since today's economic debate has prewar roots.

The war needs to be understood by new generations. Problems arise when it is treated as a music-hall joke and serious democratic politicians are portrayed as Nazi wolves in sheepskin coats.

Landslides in Alps bring road chaos

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS



AT LEAST 60,000 people, many of them British tourists, spent the first day of their skiing holiday on Saturday fuming in their cars as they found themselves stranded for up to nine hours in a huge 25-mile traffic jam in the French Alps.

Traffic was paralysed until the early hours of yesterday morning along the Route Nationale 90 between Albertville and Moûtiers, the only road that services the popular ski resorts of Tignes, Val d'Isère, La Plagne, Les Arcs, Courcheval and Méribel. As night fell and the temperature dropped sharply, the holidaymakers trapped in their vehicles were still facing a five-hour wait to get clear of the tailback.

Many were unable to reach their hotels and were forced to take refuge in makeshift accommodation set up by local authorities in order to avoid spending the night in their cars in sub-zero temperatures.

Most of those caught in the jam were British, Dutch, Belgian and German ski enthusiasts who traditionally flock to the slopes this weekend as French families return home after the mid-term holiday which ended yesterday.

The gridlock was triggered by two successive landslides that partly blocked one lane of the highway last week. The second rock fall at Pomblières, between Moûtiers and Aime, reduced traffic along the RN90 to one lane that was reserved for holidaymakers leaving the ski resorts.

Officials estimated that 32,000 vehicles were headed for the mountains, while 20,000 were trying to leave.

Those travelling to the resorts were forced to take a detour along a narrow, muddy road through a quarry where traffic rapidly slowed down to 12mph.

As the tailback continued into Saturday evening, the local authorities declared a state of emergency and appealed to residents for help in finding accommodation for the trapped motorists.

After 1,200 hotel beds in Chambéry filled up, public buildings there and in nearby towns were requisitioned to house the motorists who had given up trying to get to their destination by late Saturday.

The state-run SNCF railway dispatched two trains with sleeping cars to Albertville and Moûtiers, each able to provide heated beds for 450 people. About 150 tourists were taken in by local families and 70 spent the night in Albertville schools as well as in other public buildings.

The traffic jam was the worst in the area since 1995, when the RN90 was blocked by heavy snowfall.

Michel Barnier, president of the Savoie General Council, urgently appealed to the Government to release Fr1.2 billion (£120 million) required to ensure that the RN90 and RN212 were protected from future landslides.

"We cannot wait for another Winter Olympics to carry out the road improvements that were studied two years ago by the state. The RN90 serves 30 ski resorts, representing a total of 350,000 beds. The investment required by the state corresponds exactly to the amount paid in taxes by this sector," said M Barnier. "What kind of company would abandon such an investment when it can see that it will get its money back in one or two years?" he said.

Leading article, page 21

WALTER FRITZ / REUTERS



Jörg Haider feeds his bear, Kenny, after casting his vote yesterday. A commanding lead by his party has revived fears of a resurgence of neo-Nazism in Austria

Admirer of Hitler leads poll in Austria

FROM NIGEL GLASS IN VIENNA

AUSTRIA was reeling yesterday after Jörg Haider led his nationalist Freedom Party to a big lead in elections in the southern state of Carinthia.

The victory will for the first time make it the dominant political party in any of the nine states. Exit polls indicated that the Social Democrats, led nationally by Viktor Klima, the Chancellor, were at 32 per cent, which could cost them the majority they have enjoyed since 1945.

Nine years ago Herr Haider was forced to quit as Governor of the state after he praised Hitler's job policies. His success will be seen by many as a resurgence of neo-Nazism.

The right-wing Herr Haider's campaign mascot is a bear called Kenny, adopted by the politician and given sanctuary on his estate in Carinthia after farmers had threatened to shoot the animal. Herr Haider has pledged to expel all jobless foreigners, except citizens of the EU.

Son takes over in Bahrain on death of Emir

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

FOR the second time in a few weeks, a crucial Western ally in the Middle East has seen the smooth transition of power from father to son, this time in the Gulf state of Bahrain, *whose ruler, Sheikh Isa bin* Sulman al-Khalifa, 66, died of a heart attack at the weekend.

As in the recent transfer of power in Jordan after the death of King Hussein, the Sheikh's Sandhurst-trained eldest son, Crown Prince Hamad, was sworn in as the new Emir of the small oil-rich island which has played a key role in US and British policy in the region for many years and which is linked by a causeway to Saudi Arabia.

Although Sheikh Hamad, like the new King Abdullah II of Jordan, is primarily an army man, he has had more experience in the day-to-day running of the country.

Bahrain is home to the biggest US naval base in the region and its ruler died shortly after talks with William Cohen, the US Secretary for Defence, who was on a visit. *Sheikh Isa offered facilities to* the US Navy, discreetly at first because of popular resentment against a foreign military presence, then openly during and after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

He also allowed the use of Bahrain airfields by British and American planes. After the Gulf War, he travelled to Washington to sign a security pact with the US.

The new Emir was already commander-in-chief of the armed forces, having been responsible for their rapid build-up recently, including the recruitment of mercenaries from Jordan and Pakistan with a reputation for brutality.

He takes over at a time when the Sunni Muslim ruling family is embroiled in a long-running conflict with militant members of the Shia Muslim majority, who comprise about 65 per cent of the *580,000 population, live most*ly in poor villages ouside the gleaming capital, Manama, and have been encouraged in their campaign of unrest by the mullahs in Tehran.

The religious differences have been exacerbated by the late Emir's decision in 1975 — after a two-year experiment in democracy — to dissolve the National Assembly and suspend the Constitution.

Western governments have largely turned a blind eye to the heavy-handed tactics of the Bahraini security forces in what has often come to resemble a guerrilla war.

Obituary, page 23



Sheikh Hamad receiving condolences in Manama yesterday on the death of his father, Sheikh Isa. He was sworn in as the new Emir of Bahrain on the same day

A security official keeps guard over Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's tent in the grounds of Cairo's Qubba Palace

Gaddafi pitches for better deal

LIBYA'S maverick ruler, Colonel *Muammar* Gaddafi, held more talks in Cairo yesterday to overcome the final obstacles on resolving the Lockerbie saga (Christopher Walker writes).

The dictator, spending a week in Egypt for talks on a range of issues besides Lockerbie, has erected a tent in the grounds of Qubba Palace for his accommodation. It will also be used as a venue for meetings.

Yesterday he met Esmet Abdel Meguid, the Egyptian-born head of the Arab League, to discuss guarantees and procedures over the handover of two Libyan suspects to stand trial, un*der Scottish law, in The* Netherlands. Britain and America, whose citizens were among the majority of the 270 victims who died in the bombed plane over Lockerbie, have imposed a 30-day deadline for their handover.

Arab officials said the Libyan leader was continuing to seek guarantees that the two Libyan intelligence agents would receive a fair trial and that their handover would be matched by an immediate end to the crippling United Nations economic sanctions imposed on Libya since 1992.

Talks on Lebanon pullout

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday sent a special envoy to Paris for discussions on the terms for an Israeli withdrawal from the buffer zone it occupies in south Lebanon, Israeli army radio reported.

The trip appeared to have been organised by the Prime Minister after Salim Hoss, his Lebanese counterpart, indicated in a BBC interview at the weekend that, if Israel withdrew from south Lebanon, his Government would prevent cross-border attacks by Islamic and Palestinian guerrillas.

The future of the costly Israeli military presence in the nine-mile-wide buffer zone has emerged as a prime issue in the May 17 general election after the recent killing of seven more Israelis there, including a brigadier-general, and a pledge by the main opposition candidate, Ehud Barak, the Labour leader, to "bring the boys home" within 12 months if he is elected.

Mr Netanyahu would not confirm the report that he had sent his top diplomatic adviser, Uzi Arad, to France for talks on the situation. "I prefer not to give details about our diplomatic contacts," he said.

The radio did not say when Mr Arad left or who he planned to meet in Paris.

Damascus to rearm Saddam

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

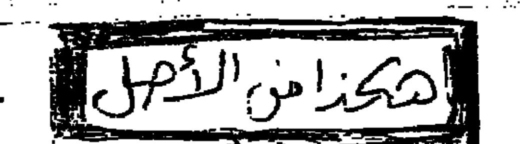
A SECRET deal has been agreed between Syria and Iraq for the supply of military equipment to Baghdad, according to Middle East intelligence sources.

Relations between the two countries have been improving significantly in recent months, with agreements already signed to develop both political and economic co-operation.

Now, after a new deal between the Syrian and Iraqi intelligence services, military equipment valued at about £60 million is to be shipped across the border, the intelligence sources said.

Since the 1991 Gulf War, President Saddam Hussein has faced a severe shortage of spare parts for his army because of the international arms embargo. Under the Damascus agreement, Syrian spare parts for military equipment would be converted for use by the Iraqi Army, the sources said. The parts would include engines for Russian-made tanks and tracks for armoured fighting vehicles.

Syria is also expected to supply spares for anti-aircraft radar facilities — hit by recent American and British bombing — lorries, aircraft and helicopters, and ammunition.





The new philanthropists

Millionaire Torquil Norman and heiress Sabrina Guinness are both dedicated to helping disadvantaged children. Grace Bradberry and Vanora Bennett report

WHEN this decade began, there was much talk about the caring, sharing Nineties. With the country mired in recession and individuals scrambling to look after themselves, it sounded like empty *Zeitgeist* rhetoric. Yet with the millennium upon us, there are signs that this has indeed become a more caring, sharing decade.

Over the past ten years, there has been a general realisation that the welfare state cannot solve all society's ills. Rather than locking the front door and blocking their minds, however, people seem more inclined to embrace social problems as their own.

Those who are "getting involved" do not necessarily support new Labour. Yet whatever you think of the arrogance and spin of the Blair project, there is no doubt that at its heart lies a social conscience. In this the Government and its People are one. We have rejected both the notion that the poor should help themselves, and that of handouts, in favour of an inclusive society where the haves and have-nots work together for a better community.

Companies are not just giving to charity, they are also involving their employees. Accountants painting hostels would have been unheard of in the Eighties. Individuals, too, have ceased to view charitable giving as a way to salve the conscience while improving their tax position. They want to *do* something. "Social Entrepreneurs", identified by Charles Leadbeater in a 1997 Demos report, take under-utilised resources and use them to satisfy unmet social needs. Such people give the lie to Margaret Thatcher's observation that "no one would remember the Good Samaritan if he'd had only good intentions. He had money as well."

We are also seeing the rise of the "new philanthropists", who prove that an entrepreneurial spirit and a social conscience are not incompatible. Torquil Norman exemplifies the breed. Having built a £100 million company from nothing, he is now putting both his money and his time into a visionary project.

Crane-like, Torquil Norman stoops towards the mop of dark hair. "Are *you* playing that?" he asks, curious at the musical talents of the small boy with his miniature organ. The child, who is Bulgarian and part of a travelling circus family, doesn't answer, but smiles instead. Norman smiles, too, straightens his 6ft 7in frame and looks around him at the shadowy grandeur of the Camden Roundhouse, in North London.

Norman, 66, is a man who could as soon ignore a child as perform acrobatics on the steel drums suspended above his head. He made his fortune from "kids", as he calls them, setting up Bluebird Toys in the Eighties and becoming one of that decade's most successful entrepreneurs. Now, as the saying goes, he is "giving something back", and the Roundhouse is part of his gift.

The day we meet, his acquisition seems a quiet, gloomy but monumental place. A door at the back has been forced open. There are padlocks to keep people out. But it won't be like this for much longer. Already it has been filled with the sounds of 100 young people taking part in a workshop run by *Stomp*, a theatrical troupe that makes music from dustbin lids. Soon, Norman hopes, it will be filled with young people not only making music but also producing videos and films, learning multimedia skills, designing clothes and using recording studios — a purpose-designed training centre for 13 to 20-year-olds. It amounts to a hugely ambitious philanthropic scheme, but Norman has that rare ability to make ambitious schemes work. Throughout his life he has embarked on risky ventures and daring adventures, driven by the personal motto "if in doubt, do it". *The New Yorker* magazine described him as "the last buccaneer", and despite his languorous manner, there is more than a touch of derring-do about him.

He has rescued and flown vintage planes that others deemed too dangerous. He founded a £100 million toy company, opening a factory in a recession. And now he has bought the Roundhouse, an historic building left alone by more circumspect individuals. Constructed by Robert Stephenson as an engine maintenance shed, the Roundhouse was a legendary venue of the Sixties and Seventies. Yet for the past 20 years it has been more or less neglected, gathering grime on the Chalk Farm Road. Norman's motivation is not so much to save the building as the young people who live in its environs.

"I never thought I'd be driven by any emotional feeling in this sort of way," he admits. "But I've felt that throughout my life young people have got a worse and worse deal." In marketing focus groups, he noticed that it was "the gritty little sods who weren't especially clever who had lots of the best ideas", and became determined to help them to get on in life. Rich, but not *that* rich, he has pledged a £6.2 million trust fund to the centre. To realise the dream, £10 million is needed from other sources. Norman believes the funding will come through. "You've got to believe," he says. But there is no guarantee that the Lottery Commission and Arts Council will say yes. If they don't, "I can't tell you what we'll do", he adds.

The project is not, however, a black hole for cash. The renovation has been conceived with commercial as well as charitable uses in mind. An extra level will be inserted below a glass roof, and art exhibitions, product launches and jazz events will take place there. There are even hopes for a Roundhouse record label. The undercroft, with its network of brick walls radiating from the centre like spokes, is to be converted into a series of studios.

Meanwhile, Norman is seeking sponsorship for his latest epic flight. In July he will pilot a Thirties de Havilland DH85 Leopard Moth from England to the American airbase of Oshkosh. It is likely to be a hazardous trip, but Norman is driven by an obsession rooted in his childhood. His father was Sir Henry Nigel St Valery Norman, a talented architect and courageous aviator, who built London's first airport, then started up the airborne services during the Second World War with Lieutenant-General Frederick (Boy) Browning. Sir Nigel died in 1943, on a flight to North Africa. Torquil, 10, had not seen his father for three years previously, having been evacuated to America.

The flying bug had already entered Norman's soul. When he was a child his father built "a little pedal car in the shape of an aeroplane. On the side it said, GWAWP. It meant 'God Willing And Weather Permitting'." He and his brothers befriended a test pilot at the local airbase who would take them up.

He was educated at Eton, where he became Head of Boats, and President of Pop, the elite group of boys who "ran" the school. He joined the Fleet Air Arm as a naval pilot. Despite being three inches over the height limitation, he managed to deceive the petty officer who measured him by bending his knees inside his bell-bottoms.

After National Service he followed his father and brothers into 601 Squadron and flew Meteors. "My legs were three inches too long — if I'd had to use the ejector seat, it would have knocked my legs off."

As for the motivation for these activities, "I'm sure everything was to do with my father", he says. He actively sought to be sent to Korea, but the war ended three weeks before he set out. His mother persuaded him to go to Cambridge instead. Afterwards he took a banking job in New York and met his wife, Anne Montagu, who was parachuting at the same airbase. Despite this hearty activity, she is an artist who trained at the Slade alongside Lucian Freud.

Norman left banking and went into industry, but in 1979 he was ousted from the board of Berwick Timpo, the toy company he had turned round. At 46 he was unemployed with five children. While lying in the bath one day he came up with the idea for The Big Yellow Teapot, a plastic playhouse with a lid that turned. Unable to bear the idea of someone else developing his idea, he started Bluebird Toys. The company went public in 1985 and he retired in the early Nineties.

He says, half jokingly, that he started the charitable trust because of his wife's profligacy. "My wife used to give my overdraft to good causes faster than I could keep up with it." He divided up everything he had, directing a proportion of it to a charitable trust. When he made his fortune, so did the trust.

Norman is not one of those people who thinks that all youngsters would benefit from leaping out of aircraft simply because he did. The spirit of adventure "has something to do with how your genes are got together", he suggests. "But I do know one thing about young people, which is that they have an infinite capacity for ideas. They should all have the chance to show commitment. The thing that gets you out of a lot of holes, it seems to me, is enthusiasm and the willingness to stick at things.

"You simply can't say that they aren't totally redeemable."

GB

Torquil Norman, the entrepreneur who has pledged a £6.2 million trust fund to turn Camden's Roundhouse into a purpose-designed training centre for 13 to 20-year-olds

Leading article, page 21

'I am just lucky to have something I love doing'

The cameraman is arguing with a producer. Other production staff are poring over schedules. As he waits for the day's celebrity visitor, a nervous presenter is trying out his questions. It is just like a real TV studio, in fact — except that all the workers are teenagers or younger.

Children as young as eight scurry up and down the stairs of a former car salesroom in West London, purposeful and motivated as they absorb the basics of TV production.

Somewhere in the bustle a slim blonde with a slightly distracted air can be seen wafting about on an endless round of problem-solving. This is Sabrina Guinness, first known as a society beauty, later a Hollywood film-maker, and, for the past five years, the founder and director of Youth Cable Television (YCTV).

"Every day is different," says Guinness. "It's exciting. Young people today should be given a voice; they seem to be the focus of so much attention, from the public and from politicians, but are we listening enough to them?"

For those aged from 18 down to 11, and for "Kids' Club" members from 8 to 12, Guinness's training project has proved a godsend. Most of the 300 children on the books are from three tough estates around Ladbroke Grove, North Kensington, a transitional district where extremes of wealth cross over with extremes of deprivation, where tower blocks and prefab housing intersect with genteel Georgian stucco, and where crime, drugs and unemployment are among the possible fates awaiting young people.

"My family like it that I come here," says 18-year-old Kae Iden, who is between two college courses and has become one of the project's star scriptwriters. "They see I'm doing something good, not like, you know, I'm out there in the streets trying to rob people." He laughs self-deprecatingly.

Guinness, 43, is trying to arrange funding for one of Kae's scripts, a "Trainspotter-ised" version of *Oliver Twist*, to make it into a feature film. "I've seen the positive changes in these young people," she says. "That's what I love most — the positive outcome."

The idea for the project grew out of Guinness's enthusiasm for work she had done in her Los Angeles days, encouraging youths from urban gangs — who had fought each other in riots in 1992 — to perform together and make friends.

The English equivalent that Guinness set up, however, was not based on performance training but on encouraging her new charges to gain technical skills in making TV. Using her well-stocked contacts book, Guinness raised enough funding to start training local children in 1994. Their car-salesroom home was converted into a TV studio in three days. The first programmes went on air in 1995 on a local cable channel, Cable & Wireless 60.

Philanthropy is an unorthodox career path for a woman who once dated the Prince of Wales and seemed destined for an heiress's lifestyle. Guinness is dismissive of questions about her past, as she is about the interpretation sometimes put on her work — that she is a latterday Lady Bountiful dispensing charity to the poor.

"Prince Charles was 20 years ago; it's not relevant," she says calmly. "The fact that I then worked in the film business was incredibly useful: I got to know how it works and I got to know some of the people, so that couldn't be better.

"As far as Lady Bountiful goes, I just consider myself lucky to have found something I love doing. I love the creative process of film-making and I love children, and I've managed to put the two together. It's good to get up in the morning and want to go to work.

"If your name is Guinness, you're branded. That can irritate me, because it stems from not looking into what I'm doing here. But I've accepted it."

Four years on, the studio is putting together three half-hour slots a day, with chat shows, music and movie programmes, interviews and pieces made by the Kids' Club.

"What is attractive about it is that Sabrina brings her own juice to it," says Tulip Tuitt, YCTV's new executive producer. "She knows a lot of people. She provides us with many short cuts. Plus, we have charitable status. That, and the young people who are so interested in TV, is an exciting combination." One of the lures for local kids is the star-studded guest list. Harrison Ford, Mel C and Chris Smith are among those interviewed at YCTV.

Children who have been sidelined academically at school can find a fresh start here, learning such techniques as film editing or animation. "We had one person who was excluded from school when he was 14 and was in here for the next three years. Now he's a good editor," says Tuitt.

YTCV, which offers children a free induction course and then lets them specialise in the area of TV for which they have the most talent, is more than a social safety valve. It equips them with skills, confidence and exposure to TV culture, which will help them into jobs in the media. A dozen or so members have moved on to college or jobs in the TV industry. "We hope that in the future we will be able to put more people into jobs, but TV is very white-dominated, very Oxbridge-dominated," says Tuitt.

However, YCTV is not the only project bringing the media to the youth of North Kensington. The area, which is near Notting Hill, the media elite's home of choice in West London, is the easy-access target for magnates with big hearts. Also operating near by are the North Kensington Video and Drama Project and Massive Videos, and several youth clubs with film and photography equipment.

"In a way, kids around here are spoilt for choice. They're calm, almost blase, about celebrities," says Leah Drane, 25, YCTV's welfare officer. To give access to the facilities to teenagers in less well-supplied districts, she has spent time broadening the catchment areas. Many of the members come from East and South London or farther afield.

"Having lots of people from the media, who can help, living in the borough is a big advantage," says Guinness. "The young people who come here in term-time are mostly local. But in the holidays we get people from all over England."

As its technical expertise grows, YCTV makes its own programmes and works on commissions for TV companies. BBC Choice, Carlton Digital and Disney are talking to Guinness. Sky recently put up funding for Tuitt's job.

Raising the £300,000 a year needed to keep the studio going has been Guinness's biggest worry; but now, she says, TV companies are starting to recognise the value of a new source of ideas and workers.

"It's good now that TV companies are beginning to support us. It feels like we're growing up," she says.

VB

ANDRE CAMARA



Sabrina Guinness, the founder and director of Youth Cable Television, in Kensington

MILAN FASHION WEEK


GUCCI


MARNI


JIL SANDER

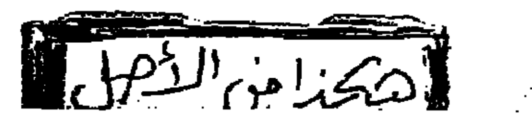


THE power of the accessory was demonstrated in Milan — first at Fendi. That the fashion crowd now eagerly attends this show rather than dreading it is almost entirely due to the success of Fendi's bags.

The first must-have was the Baguette, then came the Croissant — and last Thursday everyone wanted to see what would be next. There were more lovely versions of the Baguette and the Croissant, and for those who cannot cram their belongings into either of these, there is a chunky new knitted Arran, ideal for those country walks.

It really is a case of Bag Wars. Not since 18th-century courtiers placed their fake beauty spots according to their political allegiances has so much significance rested on something so insubstantial. But this season's bag is, without doubt, Gucci's Jacqueline — the ubiquitous squashy shoulder sack — which will not have gone unnoticed by Bernard Arnault, the head of LMVH, who is trying to increase his shares in Gucci and slip it in with the rest of his portfolio, comprising Céline, Dior, Loewe, Louis Vuitton, Christian Lacroix and Givenchy.

M Arnault has said that he can make Gucci more profitable. But none of LMVH's fash*ion houses — not even Dior* — has managed to come up with a must-have bag each season as Gucci has done.



MILAN FASHION WEEK

Sweeties, ditch those shoes


FERRETTI

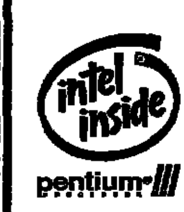

MARNI


PRADA


SPORTMAX


DOLCE E GABBANA

Ugly shoes are at the heart of winter's kitsch and country look. Photographs by **Simon Walker**



Everywhere you looked in Milan last week there was an example of monstrous footwear clomping down the catwalk. At Prada they came with splayed toes and heels in bilious shades of orange or slime-green leather that had been tooled to look like plastic (and, boy, are we over that little trick). At Jil Sander, they were turquoise or olive plastic-leather; Armani grafted techno-rubber soles on to patent brogues; SportMax revived the stacked heel and Dolce e Gabbana came up with neon-coloured python boots with mirrored cuboid heels so that a girl can put her make-up on anytime, any place — very droll, until you looked at the flared toes. What is wrong with everyone?

Ugly footwear is fine at high-street level, but at £200 a throw, it's a tedious little piece of perversity. The last time Prada produced a major shoe abomination it didn't exactly fly out the stores.

Customers may have become inured to the aesthetic fallout of the trainer influence, but it was interesting to see the Miu Miu store, normally packed to the gunwhales with fashion types eager to divest their wallets of bulky lire, strangely empty. Maybe even Miuccia Prada cannot convince people that a fluorescent rubber clod is desirable. Given that so many companies rely on the sale of accessories, the flight into hideous shoes comes very close to shooting themselves in the foot.

You know there's trouble ahead when a designer as shrewd as Tom Ford admits: "We're on the edge of fashion as we know it being really out of fashion. Most women I know — and this is a horrible thing to say as a designer — do not wear current clothing. Fashion has become so hyped ... which we're partly to blame for." Sweeties, ditch those shoes.

Alas, they are at the heart of one of Milan's key looks for next winter, echoing those tricky late Sixties/early Seventies colours — mustard, orange, cowpat-brown and moss green — that defaced the catwalks, as well as the techno look pioneered by Helmut Lang. This urban-sport idea seemed refreshing at the time, but after six days of nylon, khaki, extraneous zips, important-looking flaps and balaclava hoods, its charms are beginning to pall.

At Jil Sander's uncharacteristically unfocused show, wonderfully clever fabric techniques abounded — elastic rayon over silk fleece, gabardine coated with foam rubber, cotton glazed with chintz, stiff-looking felt coats — but much of it looked like those depressing nylons that used to come from the Eastern bloc. The beautiful, tactile pieces she is known for were back in the showroom. This widespread urge to make dour clothes is curious.

Still, if Strenesse, Armani, Jil Sander and bits of Prada all got stuck in ersatz functionalism, others took the opposite approach and this is where national differences are charmingly illustrated.

In Britain a rural outfit translates into a decomposing jumper, a sagging pair of trousers with — if you're lucky — faint traces of corduroy and silage-caked wellies. In Italy, a rural outfit is a fringed leather coat lined with pashmina (Marni), a 28-ply cashmere loose-weave, funnel-necked sweater (MaxMara), some painstakingly aged flat leather boots (Tod's), a rosebud print top (SportMax), worn with a long, flared blanket skirt trimmed with ric-rac and bound with animal-print ponyskin (Alberta Ferretti).

If MaxMara's rural idyll was conventional and comfortable, with long, gathered, tartan mohair skirts, duffel coats, detachable sheepskin linings and shaggy trims, SportMax was more than a little derivative of Marni in the way it mixed rosebuds with tweeds.

In fact, all week there was evidence that Marni is starting to make its influence felt. The problem is that Milanese quirkiness is often just a little too perfect.

Alberta Ferretti's *rustica*, meanwhile, was seductively pretty, apart from her enthusiastic use of a rather difficult brown. Embroidered sheepskins were combed to look like Afghan coats; hems were bonded rather than seamed; dresses were tied with ribbons and Native American beading decorated Wedgwood blue or camel felts.

Dolce e Gabbana recreated a "typical" Sicilian village that, needless to say, bore no resemblance to real life, unless there is a corner of Sicily where 6ft peasants troll around in neon-beaded, plastic raincoats or yellow mink micro-skirts. There were some beautiful embroidered chiffon capri pants and jackets but also more than a little kitsch: designing a show to be photogenic is smart, omitting to include a single outfit that could be worn outside a Neapolitan nightclub might not be.

Inevitably, Prada turned the most thought-provoking spin on country life, playing off decorative rural touches against technical functionalism. Khaki chiffon skirts, appliquéed with oak leaves and scored through with zips, were worn with leggings and mesh corsets that were more urban-combat than *Dangerous Liaisons*. Miuccia Prada said that she was inspired by the English countryside.

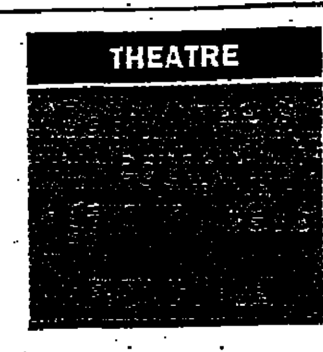
There was a third way between *The Archers* and *Bladerunner*. No one does trashy in a classier way than Tom Ford. Gucci's paean to LA rock-chick style featured skin-tight bell-bottoms, tiny, fitted leather tunics and jackets embellished with leather rosettes and trumpet-shaped sleeves. Ruched velvet pencil skirts and vertiginous, silver-spangled shoes marched down the catwalk with an Eighties swagger.

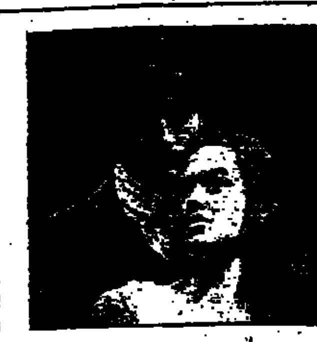
Yes, you had to be skinny to wear 99 per cent of it. And tall. But at least you felt it would be worth the effort. Ford declared it a backlash against utility. "All those backpacks, sneakers and utility jackets — throw all that crap out." Amen.

TRENDS Chunky high heels; boots; rustic detailing; shaggy textures; fringing; ponyskin; appliqué; colours in mustard, mud, moss; leggings; duffel coats; fur linings; make-up: natural with emphasis on the eyes; hair artfully undone

OPERA
Crudity meets kitsch in a sad ENO show
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES
ARTS





Yale reopens its key Anglo file

VISUAL ART: The great benefactor Paul Mellon would have loved his beautifully refurbished Yale Centre for British Art, says **Richard Cork**

Paul Mellon's recent death robbed us of an outstanding benefactor, whose enthusiasm for British art transformed its representation in his native America. But Mellon's legacy is set to endure, above all in the great museum he founded and endowed at Yale University. The Yale Centre for British Art, housed in a luminous building designed by Louis Kahn, contains the finest historical collection of British painting to be found anywhere outside the UK.

Sadly, Kahn's building was closed all last year. The roof needed urgent attention; and while its 56 domes were being refitted, the galleries were supplied with new backing wallboards, linen and carpets. Now it has reopened, with an interior as pristine as it was when inaugurated in 1977.

Kahn's architecture, dominated by concrete, steel and glass on the austere façade, becomes far richer within. The Entrance Court, surging up through the full height of the building so that it benefits from the glazed domes' top-lighting, offers a spectacular welcome. Not that Kahn relinquishes his Corbusian love of concrete inside. It remains visible wherever you look, and takes on an awesome authority in the cylindrical staircase.

With considerable daring, Kahn exposed the outside of this great drum to anyone gazing down from above. It looks like minimal sculpture at its most uncompromising, above all when viewed from the well of the Library Court. But the wood in panelling and floor, as well as a magnificent rug spread between the sofas, offset any threat of gloom.

Moreover, the walls of the Library Court have been rehung to dramatic effect. Now the cream of the paintings by George Stubbs, an abiding favourite of Mellon, are displayed around the room. Previously, the two largest and most provocative Stubbs canvases, *Horse Attacked by a Lion* and *Lion Attacking a Stag*, were hung far above visitors' heads. Now they confront us at eye level.

> 'The walls have been rehung to dramatic effect'

The main sweep of the collection, though, can be found on the fourth floor. Rearranged in a series of themes, it tells a broadly chronological story of British painting from Tudor times to the early 20th century.

Mellon bought Gainsborough at an early, captivating stage, when the young artist lived in Suffolk and painted the Gravenor family at ease on the edge of a sunlit cornfield. The outcome is the quintessence of freshness, bathing the Ipswich apothecary with his wife and delectable daughters in a luminosity Gainsborough would never surpass.

Mellon did not stint when he had the chance to acquire masterpieces by celebrated artists. Nothing could be more vibrant than Turner's large, immaculately preserved panorama of Dordrecht, while Constable is seen at his most agitated in a headlong canvas of Hadleigh Castle.

Although the centre's collection does not extend very far into the present century, its ebullient director, Patrick McCaughey, has ensured that the reopening is marked by three stimulating shows devoted to pre-eminent modern artists. The Entrance Court is filled with carvings and bronzes by Henry Moore, concentrating on his preoccupation with the "heroic" figure. Some of the finest pieces were made between the wars, when Moore concentrated on carving. *The Reclining Woman*, loaned by Ottawa, hewn from Green Hornton stone in 1930, is among the most satisfying of all his attempts to fuse female and landscape forms.

But most of Moore's exhibits are post-1945, when he began to favour bronze and embarked on a sequence of family groups. Inspired perhaps by the birth of Moore's own child, they look like an attempt to affirm optimism after the Holocaust. After a time, though, disquiet breaks out. In a small *Mother and Child* from Washington, the offspring seems bent on biting the proffered maternal breast. And two large *Warrior* figures, among Moore's few attempts to explore the male form, show brutally severed victims scarcely capable of holding shields to protect themselves from further assault.

In this respect, they are surprisingly close to the emotions generated by another show upstairs: a Francis Bacon retrospective. The range of Bacon's art is here, from a phantom-like *Crucifixion* painted in 1933 to a mysterious, impulsive *Jet of Water* painted a few years before his death. The Yale survey does compelling justice to the flowering of the artist's vision, displayed in intimate spaces that intensify the theatricality of Bacon's art.

Another painter who came to maturity after the war, Lucian Freud, is scrutinised in the third show. It concentrates on his etchings alone, lent by the PaineWebber Art Collection. They provide a remarkably absorbing insight into Freud's achievement, even though he abandoned etching for three decades after an initial involvement with the medium during the 1940s.

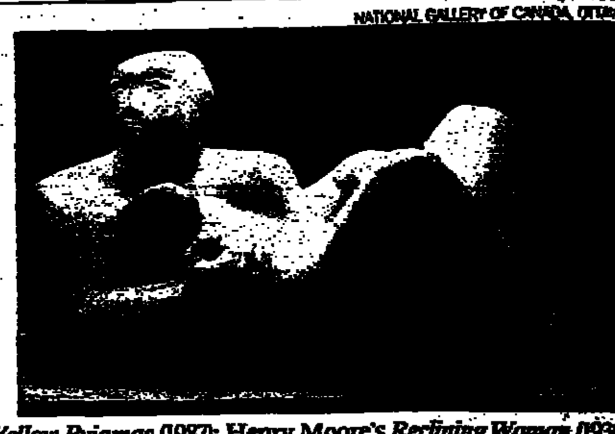
Starting with his resumption of interest in 1982, the survey charts Freud's probing, alert scrutiny of heads and bodies alike. Most of them close on the sitter, fascinated above all by the human face's capacity to disclose individuals at their most stoical, contemplative and solitary. Freud's mastery increases as the exhibition proceeds, and his latest prints arrive at a magisterial command of a medium he was born to explore.

● Bacon, Freud and Moore *at the Yale Centre for British Art (001-203 432 2800), 1080 Chapel St, New Haven, Connecticut, until Mar 21*

PAINEWEBBER ART COLLECTION



NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA, OTTAWA



Modern masters: (left) Lucian Freud's *Lord Goodman in his Yellow Pyjamas* (1987); Henry Moore's *Reclining Woman* (1930)



The full range of Francis Bacon's work is on show at Yale University in Connecticut, including *Untitled* (1943 or 1944)

Gluck runs out in the gloom

OPERA

ORPHEUS may have to cross the River Styx and go through Hades to find his beloved Eurydice, but that is no good reason for filling Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* with Stygian gloom. Martha Clarke, the American choreographer who has returned to the Coliseum to direct her unlovely 1997 production, seems more intent than ever on putting massive obstacles between Gluck's score and the audience. She shunts the admirable ENO chorus off to the side-stage boxes so that they do not get in the way of her dancers.

She then allows her designer, John Conklin, to strew the stage with jagged boulders, presenting problems for the ballet corps of eight in the *Dance of the Blessed Spirits*.

The new Orpheus, the Polish counter-tenor Artur Stefanowicz, literally has to stumble his way through the murk. His voice is clean and even, although it tends to lose power in the lower register. His English is less good and does scant justice to Anne Ridler's crisp translation. But *Che faro* was sung with deep feeling, very slowly, and tenderly supported by the Baroque expert, Roy Goodman, in his house debut.

Margaret Richardson was much clearer as Eurydice, as her soprano flowed easily through bafflement at Orpheus's behaviour to outright anguish. Mary Nelson's Amor would have more impact had the costume designer, Jane Greenwood, given her something half decent to wear. Grungy, outsize black overcoats were the order of the day. Even here Martha Clarke miscalculates.

After entombing Gluck between the dry ice of Hades and one of Greece's rockier places, she suddenly decides to have a frolic. The dancers toss a skeleton high into the air with the help of a sheet, like medical students having ribald fun during rag week. Simultaneously a flaxen-haired moppet strews rose petals in the path of Orpheus and Eurydice. Their daughter?

Crudity meets kitsch in an evening where contemporary dance clashes with Gluck.

JOHN HIGGINS

A dream of a theme

CONCERT

A SUCCESSION of standing ovations at the Festival Hall failed, thank goodness, to squeeze any encores out of the pianist Maurizio Pollini at the end of a recital of late Beethoven Bagatelles and Variations. The unhysterical warmth of that applause recognised the consummatory stature of Pollini's performance of the *Diabelli Variations*.

Pollini announced the theme with frisky mischief, soon transmuted into a tongue-in-cheek, toy-soldier march. By the third variation Beethoven's and Pollini's intellects were busy tying musical knots which were as speedily unravelled in the playful rhythms of the fourth and the one-man-band flamboyance of the fifth.

After the pianistic strobe-lighting of the tenth variation's rapid octaves, it was time for transformation. From a new beginning, the energy Pollini so skilfully built in long stretches of quiet tension was carried over into the Presto scherzando and on into the drumming bass of the Allegro. This created a sense of continuing metamorphosis as well as mere variation.

With the four isolated opening notes of Variation 20, Pollini scented out the way forward for the last 13 variations. The naughty *Don Giovanni* variation became a springboard for outrageous virtuosity before Pollini's last five variations created a true sense of the visionary as the theme made a final return, humbled, chastened and transfigured.

Earlier in the evening, Pollini had drawn in his audience in the two sets of Bagatelles. In the earlier Op 119 his obvious reverence for the works sometimes tempted him to keep just too tight a grip on the music. But in the last great Op 126 Pollini's grasp of the cumulative power of their alternating moods fused in a final *envoi* of perfect expressive proportion.

HILARY FINCH

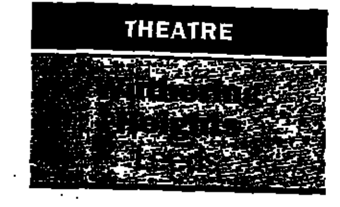
هكذا من الأصل

Halfway up the heights

One of the most haunting love stories in the language, staged on home ground (or near enough) by a theatre at the top of its game: I had high hopes for this production. But Emily Brontë's masterpiece, with its multiple narrators and its rough-hewn emotions rooted in the rough-hewn landscape of the Yorkshire Moors, is notoriously resistant to the overtures of lesser talents. So it proves with Malcolm Sutherland's new adaptation, which he also directs, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

The biggest problem is the script. It simply tries to do too much, and ends up as little more than a drawn-out synopsis.

THEATRE



Many an earlier version, including the Olivier-Leigh film, made do with the first half of the novel, throwing in the towel after Cathy's death. Sutherland bravely ploughs on to the end. He sensibly rearranges events in chronological order, but even so the innumerable short scenes are abruptly truncated.

Which means that few of the characters are given enough breath to establish themselves, let alone their relationships with each other. Heathcliff and Cathy are treated no better than the rest. Sutherland whips through their childhood in a couple of minutes. You have to take their growing attraction on trust from the narrator, the servant Nelly Dean, who has unwisely been retained. Nelly is the linchpin of the novel — her matter-of-fact narration makes the wild passions she describes at once more believable and more extraordinary. But though she is capably played by Jacqueline King, having her on stage throughout dilutes the drama.

Unfortunately, too, while newcomer Elisabeth Dermot-Walsh makes an appealing Cathy, Chook Sibtain's clumsy performance captures none of Heathcliff's diabolical charm. Where he should be seething, he acts petulant, where brooding, vacant.

Much more characterful are Cathy Sara as Catherine, the sweet-natured daughter of Cathy and Edgar, and Ed Purver as the lily-livered Linton, son of Heathcliff and Isabella. Sutherland slows the pace down towards the end, and their scenes together are sharply observed. Michelle Abrahams is zestful as Edgar's sappy sister Isabella, but elsewhere the acting and directing are mostly leaden.

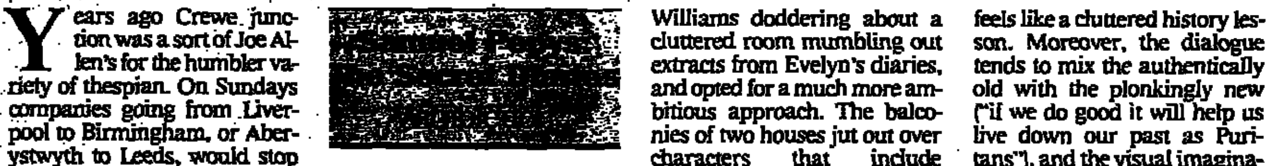
The ingenious set, by Robin Don, is likewise ambitious but flawed. Several levels of two houses — the Heights and Edgar's Grange — pivot in and out on either side of the stage. This pushes much of the action into the corners, though it also cleverly allows several scenes to go on in tandem. The rest is bare but for some gauze screens, on to which are projected images of rocks, flowers and scudding clouds — not to mention a scan of a baby in the womb. Echoing the novel's multiple layers and conflation of symbolism and realism is an admirable intention, but the literalism is deadening, and like much else it ends up seeming merely half-hearted.

NIGEL CLIFF

RICHARD MORAN



Rough stuff: Chook Sibtain as Heathcliff and Elisabeth Dermot-Walsh as Cathy in Malcolm Sutherland's half-hearted *Wuthering Heights*



A cluttered history lesson

MARILYN KINGWILL



Sophie Walker as Pepys's wife Elizabeth and Nick Wilton as the great diarist in the Good Company production

Years ago Crewe junction was a sort of Joe Allen's for the humbler variety of thespian. On Sundays companies going from Liverpool to Birmingham, or Aberystwyth to Leeds, would stop there for a change of trains, a chat, maybe a fishpaste sandwich. Most troupes these days are tiny tribes buzzing about in vans; but a few still make the traditional tour of the larger regional theatres, presenting worthy plays on slim budgets and seldom if ever ending in the West End. A prime example would, I suppose, be Good Company, which has spent a decade criss-crossing the country with the likes of Fenella Fielding, Jonathan Cecil and Miriam Karlin in work varying from *Pride and Prejudice* to Sue Townsend's *Ear, Nose and Throat*.

This week Good Company is ensconced in Crewe itself, justifying and not quite justifying its defiantly downright name with Dennis Saunders's informative but clunky dramatisation of Pepys's life during the phase, 1660 to 1669, when he wrote his Diaries. I could have waited to see the show until it hit Guildford, Canterbury or Brighton, but an interest in the subject and an admiration for the underrated Edward de Souza, who sounds more like a bravura trumpet solo than any actor living, drew me to the Wimbledon Theatre last week.

Saunders and his director, Sue Pomeroy, have rejected the simplicity that gave us Roy Dotrice and (recently) Michael Williams doddering about a cluttered room mumbling out extracts from Evelyn's diaries, and opted for a much more ambitious approach. The balconies of two houses jut out over characters that include Charles II, royal mistresses from Lady Castlemaine to a briefly glimpsed Nell Gwyn, and politicians galore. De Souza gives his vocal all to the task of evoking a profit-obsessed City banker, but, like everyone bar Nick Wilton's wonderfully flummoxed if uncharismatic Pepys, does not have a very rounded role.

A major problem is the political complexity of a decade which began in a spirit of post-Puritan relief and, after plague, the Great Fire, wars with the Dutch, lechery at court and financial corruption everywhere, ended with men yearning for another Cromwell. The evening sometimes feels like a cluttered history lesson. Moreover, the dialogue tends to mix the authentically old with the plonkingly new ("if we do good it will help us live down our past as Puritans"), and the visual imagination seldom amounts to more than signalling the plague with scuttling figures holding kerchiefs to their mouths and wailing "God have mercy".

Yet it is hard to resist Wilton's Pepys, with his earnest patriotism, bad eyes and lousy hair, his forlorn attempts to cling on to his integrity and decorum despite temptations that include bribes, women and the theatre. Imagine the soul of a sensualist in the body of a dumpy penguin, or Casanova transformed into the school swot; and you have a most appealing performance.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

All in the songs

The Trash Can Sinatras belong to an estimable tradition of literate Scottish pop bands who meld metaphors and melodies to quite brilliant effect. Orange Juice and Aztec Camera would be their most obvious predecessors but the Kilmarnock-based group have never enjoyed the same level of commercial success.

Rather they have skulked around on the fringes of cultdom, retaining a small but fiercely loyal and quite fanatical following over the course of the past ten years. Despite having kept a public profile only marginally lower than Salman Rushdie's for the past three years and, at time of writing, no record deal to help to relaunch their career, the Trash Can Sinatras managed to draw a more than healthy crowd to Dublin's Mean Fiddler on Friday. I spoke to one fan who had travelled all the way from Chicago especially for the gig.

POP

Trash Can Sinatras
Dublin

The band have, however, just completed a brief but successful tour of Japan and it seems the tide may be turning their way as there is talk of an imminent recording contract. Indeed, it takes confidence to begin a show with new, unfamiliar material but that's what Frank Reader and his chums did. In truth, it was a pretty subdued, low-key start but nevertheless there were some beautiful flourishes courtesy of Paul Livingston and John Douglas's twin chiming guitars and Reader's mournful vocals, the tone and phrasing of which carries ever more distinct echoes of Morrissey's.

Indeed, at times the Trash Can Sinatras sounded as if they were playing lost outtakes from the Smiths' first album — an impression reinforced by the presence of a Hammond organ. I, for one, was not complaining.

Moreover, a cursory scan of the venue reveals a constituency of bespectacled, serious-minded, single blokes who, one suspects, once had Morrissey posters tacked to their walls. They greet the melodic nous and discreet charm of the likes of *Hayfever*, *The Hairy Years* and *The Safecracker* with open hearts as well and new songs, like *Duty Free*, with open minds.

If there is a fault it is in the presentation; there is precious little visual stimulation at work here. At worst, the six-piece unit that is the Trash Can Sinatras live experience has the stage presence of a drum monitor.

But what they lack in theatrical dynamics they make up for in their handling of the basics, ie, the songs. *I've Seen Everything* — the title track of their second album — is an irresistible blast of perfect guitar pop

NICK KELLY

This week in THE TIMES



■ POP

Neil Diamond sings some of his countless hits during a five-night run at Wembley
OPENING GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ THEATRE

Klaus Maria Brandauer depicts Hitler's architect in *Speer* at the Almeida
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSIC

German Lieder at the Wigmore with burnished baritone Thomas Hampson
CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ FILM

Comic relief: Robin Williams uses laughter as a cure-all in *Patch Adams*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: Sadler's Wells's first in-the-round production, by Green Candle Dance Co



Who are you kidding, Mr Blair?

It is time to face economic reality in Europe, says **Peter Shore**

What Britain and the Government need is not the launch of an expensive pre-referendum campaign on the euro, disguised as a purely technical and preparatory National Changeover Plan, but a total rethink of our whole position on Europe and the euro.

To start with, the Prime Minister must face the fact that, like so many of his predecessors, he has failed to recognise — or blinded himself to — the central reality of European politics: namely, that the persistent, powerful and now dominant intent of a clear majority of the EU's member states is to establish a close political union, leading as rapidly as possible to a fully integrated European state.

This purpose has been clear to anyone who has followed events in Europe since the negotiation of the Maastricht treaty in the late 1980s. In the run-up to the launch of the euro on January 1, more and more European political leaders have stated in public, loud and clear, that this is their basic intent.

More, the whole political enterprise has been given an additional very powerful and public thrust by the new German Government in the statements of Chancellor Schrō-der, Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, and the Minister for Europe, Günther Verheugen: and not one of the euroland 11 has attempted to contradict them. These facts by themselves require a major British rethink.

Shortly before the 1997 general election, Tony Blair summed up his European policy in two clear sentences: "New Labour will have no truck with a European superstate" and "If there are those in Europe who want a federal superstate, we would refuse to go along".

Assuming that he still holds to that position — and even allowing for a large element of fudge and self-deception, as when he and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, persuaded themselves in November 1997 that the single currency didn't raise important political or constitutional matters, only questions of economic advantage or disadvantage — intellectual honesty simply will not allow him the pretence any longer that there is not a fundamental and unbridgeable gap between the basic aims of the United Kingdom and those of our European partners. They *do* want a federal state — super or not — as could not have been proclaimed more clearly than in Joschka Fischer's address to the Strasbourg Parliament on January 16. There is scarcely a political leader in Europe who does not see and welcome the euro as a giant step towards that overtly political end. Do we, Mr Prime Minister, still "refuse to go along"?

Scarcely less importantly, the Prime Minister, and most certainly the Chancellor, must rethink Britain's basic macroeconomic stance inside the European Union. Even before the 1997 general election, and on almost every opportunity since, the Chancellor has gone out of his way — and the Prime Minister has unhappily indicated his agreement — to endorse the most monetarist and deflationary provisions of Maastricht.

So we have heard the endless celebration of "golden rules" of budgetary finance: the eulogies paid to prudence, particularly the prudence embodied in the treaty's restrictions on government borrowing, backed up by the heavy financial penalties and fines of the Stability Pact. And, if that wasn't enough, we have had the Chancellor's surrender of control over interest rate policy — and exchange rate policy as well — and his enthusiastic endorsement of the European Central Bank, with its total independence from any political control and a commitment to price stability which overrides any concerns about employment and economic expansion.

Under the Germany of Chancellor Kohl, the ECB's restrictive, deflationary monetarist doctrines were written into the Maastricht treaty. Now, after electoral changes across Europe as well as in Germany itself, there is a new regime under Chancellor Shrō-der committed above all to economic expansion and to a reduction of unemployment.

In the present conditions of economic near-recession in the eurozone's core countries, this means cuts in interest rates; it also means increases in public expenditure and borrowing, and possibly cuts in taxation as well. Such policies are in contradiction to the treaty. Hence, the clash between German ministers and Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank and Mario Monti, the European tax commissioner.

> He is facing a situation very like that of Major

So, whom and what do Mr Blair and Mr Brown now support? Are they still the sturdy upholders of rectitude and the unchanged Maastricht treaty, or do they stand with the European majority and their Social Democrat allies in seeking a totally different policy direction? At Milan last week, with his renewed emphasis on the need for flexibility in labour markets — and his contrasting of American economic success with European failure — the Prime Minister seemed to be opting clearly for the latter.

If so, Mr Blair is going to find himself — and this is quite apart from euroland's renewed drive for indirect tax harmonisation, its assault upon "unfair tax competition" and Britain's "unfair" budget rebate — in a position very similar to that faced by John Major a few years ago: that is, the isolation of Britain within the European Union. This is the very situation that in the past Mr Blair swore to avoid and for which he attributed blame solely to Tory incompetence and division. Reality at last?

Lord Shore of Stepney is the chairman of Labour's Euro-Safeguards Campaign

comment@the-times.co.uk



An Englishman abroad

The poll figures may look better, but Blair is widely resented in Scotland

William Rees-Mogg

How much would you trust a Labour Government to stand up for the interests of Britain? I think a large number of people would still say "a lot". That is one of the bigger differences between Tony Blair's administration and John Major's. After Britain was forced out of the European exchange system in 1993, most people lost faith in the ability of the Conservatives to stand up for Britain's interests; the biggest task for William Hague's Opposition is to recover that confidence. Nobody doubted that Margaret Thatcher would stand up for British interests, however much they disliked particular aspects of her Government. That was why she won general elections of 1979, 1983 and 1987, a record run.

This is what makes the answer to the same question in Scotland so damaging for Labour. "How much would you trust a Scottish Labour Government to stand up for the interests of Scotland?" That was one of the questions in last week's poll in *The Scotsman*. Only 15 per cent said "a lot". Thirty-three per cent said "a little"; 23 per cent would distrust it "a little", and another 23 per cent would distrust it "a lot". It is the 15 per cent that matters. The campaign for the Scottish parliament is about standing up for Scotland. It is not about independence, at any rate not yet. It is about the representation of Scottish interests inside the United Kingdom; 85 per cent of Scottish voters lack full confidence in Labour as Scotland's advocate.

No one, I think, doubts that the Scottish Nationalists would stand up for Scotland. There are many fears about the dangers of Nationalist policy. Many Scottish voters do accept Labour arguments that the SNP would damage Scottish interests by pursuing them too divisively. Alex Salmond's reassurances about a "friendly divorce" are intended to counter these arguments. Yet on the central question, whether the SNP would be a tough advocate of Scottish interest, a general answer is "if anything, too tough".

The other poll findings have some good and some bad news for Labour. Voting intentions could be worse. Labour has moved to a ten-point lead over the SNP; about a quarter of respondents prefer the Conservatives or the Liberal Democrats, and a quarter of all voters are still undecided. If this poll proves correct — the Scottish election is not until May 6 — *The Scotsman* calculates that Labour would win 59 seats, six short of a majority, the SNP 42, Conservatives 15, and Liberal Democrats 13.

So far, so good for Labour. The problem will be turnout. Can the Scottish Labour Party gets its voters to the polls? Recent English local government by-elections show how serious this problem could be, though the first elections to a Scottish parliament will be much more exciting than any local government by-election. In these English by-elections, the Labour Party has been performing about 10 per cent below its opinion poll ratings. The Conservatives, in the South and Midlands, and the Liberal Democrats, in the North, have been performing about 10 per cent above theirs. Nationwide opinion polls suggest another Labour landslide at a general election; local government results suggest a hung Parliament.

Apathy is Labour's enemy in Scotland. The answers to some other poll questions show how little enthusiasm there is among Scottish Labour voters. Forty-one per cent of Labour voters, and 53 per cent of all voters, think that a Labour victory will not make much difference to Scotland. There is a groundswell of anti-English and anti-Blair feeling. Fifty-one per cent, even of Labour voters, think that Tony Blair should keep out of the Scottish election. He is seen as an Englishman, running an English Government. That sounds more like support for independence than for continued devolution inside the United Kingdom.

From the Scottish point of view, Mr Blair is believed to have opted for devolution in form but for what Diane Abbott called "command and control" in practice. Some problems are coming up already. The SDA Act retained broadcasting as a Westminster responsibility. The BBC, which has been fighting Scottish broadcasting autonomy for the past quarter century, has responded with two wrong-headed decisions. BBC Scotland wants to run the news from six o'clock to seven in the evening as a Scottish operation, covering news from a Scottish point of view. The BBC governors have refused to allow this. Scotland will continue to get *News at Six* from London. The governors have also decided not to provide live coverage of the new Scottish parliament — a provocative decision.

It is not only the BBC which is refusing to make even the mildest concessions. Deals are being worked out in Whitehall to define the boundaries of power between London and Edinburgh. An early decision which has angered Scotland is that the Treasury, of all departments, is to be given power to control the Scottish parliament's spending on inward investment. This is opposed by the Liberal Democrats as well as by the SNP. It is resented by the Labour Left in Scotland. There are many more such decisions to come.

The voting intention figures do, therefore, look better for Labour than the attitudes or policy issues. Yet most people, even in Scotland, assume there will be a coalition between Labour and the Liberal Democrats to govern Scotland. It remains a possibility but it will not be that easy. The Liberal Democrats have their own agenda: they will not come into a coalition without a bargaining process. If Labour does less well than is now expected, the Lib Dems will be reluctant to share Labour's declining popularity.

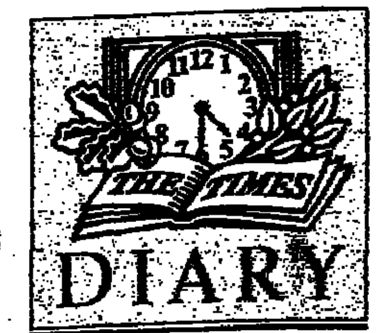
There is also the Labour Left to reckon with. Donald Dewar could form a coalition with the Liberal Democrats only if he reached agreed terms with his own left wing. He knows that. In Blairite London, the Left has been excluded from high office, save for one or two token trusties. In Edinburgh, John McAllion, the Labour MP for Dundee East, has been made one of 20 campaign spokesmen. To quote Ian Bell in *The Scotsman*, McAllion "is behaving like a candidate confident of his ability to offer an alternative to Blairism . . . by placing the interests of the Scottish people, as he understands them, above any other loyalty, he is charting a course towards maximum autonomy for Labour in Scotland. So he comes within an inch of saying that the Scottish party should not in principle be opposed to Scottish independence."

How has Mr Blair responded to this challenging situation? In Glasgow, on Friday, he acknowledged the divisions in his party by an eloquent appeal for unity from old and new Labour, from Social Democrats and Socialists alike. He also repeated past attempts to frighten people away from the SNP. He used a tax scare, much the same theme as helped the Tories to defeat Labour in the 1992 general election. He said an SNP victory would cost every family in Scotland an extra £30 a week in taxes.

The Scottish Labour Left is worried by this Nat-bashing, particularly when it comes from someone they do not regard as a Scot. They feel that Nat-bashing can come too close to Scot-bashing; they do not accept that Scotland can survive only on English subsidies; they do want to increase state power, but they want that power to be in Edinburgh. John McAllion speaks of his sympathy with "people comfortable with their own Scottish identity". The Nationalists certainly feel comfortable with their own Scottish identity.

The English have not yet fully woken up to the historic importance of this first election for the Scottish parliament. Labour is likely still to be the largest party in Scotland, but its difficulties are serious. They will find it hard to get out their vote in May; they are divided between a minority of new Blairites and a majority of old or Left Labour; they see Blair himself as a middle-class English outsider. Many Labour voters sympathise with the Nationalists. Labour has had power for too long in Scottish local government, and there has been too much sleaze. If Labour does form the first Scottish government, it will be nothing like a clone of new Labour. The Scottish parliament will inevitably challenge the Westminster Parliament. Even if it is Labour, the first Scottish government will be the first post-Blair government to gain power in Britain.

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Pigging out

AFTER rolling in something rather pungent of late, Viscount Cranborne is to stride from the political stage — to set up a rare-breeds farm for his beloved pigs.

The Tory toff who crossed William Hague has vowed never to return to the Lords in its new egalitarian guise; instead, he will devote himself to bucolic intrigues at Cranborne Manor: "Pigs are the most charming, restful and clean characters. I have always loved them," he muses. "My wife gave me a Tamworth sow for Christmas."

He has a small collection, some of which are pets. "I talk to them and they talk back. You can tell when they are down in the dumps. And they are very good to eat." He reassures me: "I do not give them names if I am going to eat them."

He is convinced there is now a market for pukka pigs. His only fear? That he will be mistaken for P.G. Wodehouse's Lord Emsworth, who christened a sow Empress of Blandings and cared little for literature since *Whiffle on the Care of the Pig*. Soon Cranborne will say goodbye to all the Lord Emsworths: "The Lords has no interest left to me. I have been excluded."

FAY WELDON admits in next month's Harpers & Queen *that she stole her first love from her best friend. He drove a Harley Davidson, and seems to have left quite an impression: "Still the sound of a motorbike pulling up . . . what, only the courier?"*




■ FASHION harpies have reason to be nervous: a Hollywood studio has vacuumed up rights to *Simply Divine*, Wendy Holden's novel about *Tatler*. Warner Brothers is believed to want Gwyneth Paltrow, above left, to play one of the magazine's decorative but pointless aristos. "It could be the part that makes Gwyneth," Holden says.

The socially ambitious schemer, not to be confused with Jane Proctor, *Tatler* Editor, right, is thought perfect for Julia Roberts (suitably aged). Nicholas Coleridge, publisher of the magazine, is unlikely to be barrelling along with his popcorn.

WRITER'S block is to be the subject of a conference in Los Angeles, addressed by John le Carré. As the pulp fictionalist has churned out a book every couple of years since 1961, it is a condition from which I doubt he has ever suffered, sadly.

■ SHELLSUIT man is to gain entry to clubland. The Naval and Military, known to cabbies as the In and Out, is advertising for members, the first time a gentleman's club has done so.

The club, now in digs in St James's Square, has advertised in the *Literary Review*, thus undermining that fine tradition the blackball. John Stevens, retired naval officer and deputy secretary, was caught unawares when I called: "I shall raise the matter with the marketing department on Monday morning."

Kenneth Rose, the eminent historian, says: "It's extraordinary. A lot joined in the war, when there was an enormous Army and Navy. I suppose they are all dying."



PLUTOCRATIC sorts are unfazed by the Labour Budget. As Gordon Brown unveils plans to, er, save the workers from poverty, the Saatchis will entertain cronies with a champagne reception.

■ AN UNGODLY conflict looms: Boris Johnson, the flaxen-haired commentator, is said to be barking after the Tory nomination in Sutton and Cheam — where Lady Olga Maitland hopes to regain her old seat for the Tories from the Liberal Democrats. "Boris is fabulous," Lady O assures me. "But unlike him, I *live* in Sutton." Poor dear.

JASPER GERARD

'Moscow's teenaged black-marketeers seemed a lot more benign than my English friends, who were taking Ecstasy and shoplifting'

Anna Blundy

There is an unspoken understanding among Russians that anyone involved in big business or politics is essentially a crook and, try as you might, you usually end up conceding that this is true. Ask a Russian what she thinks of any of the key presidential contenders, or the businessmen who support them, and she will shrug and, depending on her politics, will say either: "Well, he's the best of a bad lot," or: "Everybody knows he's backed by the mafia." (I use a female example because it is International Women's Day today — a public holiday on which women sometimes receive presents and men invariably get drunk.)

Under communism, anybody doing business privately was contravening Soviet law, and the impression that business is illegal, that people earning large sums of money must be criminals, has stuck. As for politicians, they were always considered deeply compromised people who had probably squealed on their enemies and had certainly taken innumerable bribes.

Nowadays, when accountability has all but disappeared, they must, it is universally assumed by the average conspiracy-theorist Russian, be even worse.

For a foreigner, it can be tempting to believe that it is too easy to write off all the new millionaires as mafiosos and murderers, when perhaps they are no worse than Richard Branson or Bill Gates, and to dismiss politicians as power-crazed crooks, when they might be Nelson Mandelas inside. Looking at Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, one longs to think: "Perhaps, despite his Communist background and years as a spy, he is really an idealist and a visionary who wants the best for the Russian people." When you size up Boris Berezovsky, it is almost possible to be charitable. "So he was a car dealer? Is that really so awful?" one says hopefully.

After all, the teenaged black-marketeers who used to stand outside tourist hotels changing your dollars into roubles and touting Russian military hats, watches and belts in return for jeans and electronic goods would have got up to 15 years in prison under communism. It was just a difference in perception. To me, they seemed a lot more benign and law-abiding than my English friends of the same age who were taking Ecstasy and shoplifting.

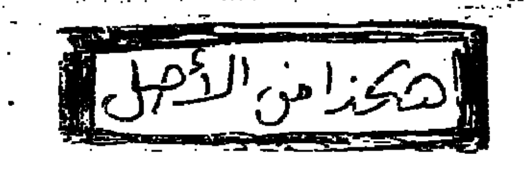
Of course, one is quickly shaken out of one's idealistic reverie when one talks to an intelligent Russian, or to anyone trying to do business here. "Oh, come on!" they sigh. "So where do you think all the oil goes when it disappears off the face of the earth after going into the pipeline? Do you honestly believe they didn't know in advance that the currency would collapse on August 17?" Sergei Kiriyenko, the former Prime Minister who is widely held responsible for the economic catastrophe, was seen by a British banker in the ski resort of Zermatt in January, relaxing in the sauna at the resort's most expensive hotel. "If you got rich in the past ten years here, you robbed the Russian people and that's that," they sneer.

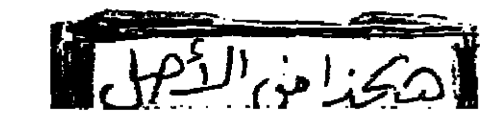
The outrage is compounded by the fact that so many people have had their lives altered beyond recognition, and for the worse, by the collapse of communism, and yet they have had to stand by while a fortunate few have started holidaying in Barbados, settling their families in London and banking in Switzerland. (The community of sons and daughters of eminent Russians in London has become so large that the Moscow gossip-columns are now full of stories from Knightsbridge, where it is considered vulgar to ask a new acquaintance exactly who his or her parents are.)

The world is aware that the life savings of millions of people were annihilated last August and, though one man did go and hold up a bank on Friday demanding the $20,000 he had lost, most have taken this devastating blow in their stride, accepting it as just another sign that you can't trust anyone, that capitalists and politicians are fundamentally corrupt. And the trouble is, they are.

The economic crisis has sent hundreds of Western bankers, accountants, lawyers, businessmen and economists hurtling homewards (and those who are staying barely have time to do any work, what with the endless round of leaving parties) and has left their Russian colleagues driving taxis. The bleak joke I heard from an economist last week about Anatoli Chubais, one of the original architects of Russian economic reform and now head of Russian state electricity, is depressingly pertinent. "Due to technical reasons," says Chubais, "the light at the end of the tunnel has been temporarily switched off."

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Pigging Out

BORING AND SIMPLE

How Brown can do no harm with his Budget

When the Chancellor stands up in the House of Commons tomorrow some of his luckiest breaks will already be behind him. Scarcely six months ago evidence of a domestic slowdown lay in piles across his desk. Disturbing economic signs from all over the world threatened to undermine the arithmetic that he had set in force in his second Budget and elaborated with enthusiasm in the Comprehensive Spending Review last summer. Through his decision to transfer authority over monetary questions to the Bank of England, he had restricted some traditional means of escape. Growth forecasts were reduced. The Conservatives, led by Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, confidently anticipated a severe recession. Many Labour MPs feared the same.

Fortune has favoured Mr Brown. The Bank of England, following the lead set by Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, has cut interest rates with an unexpected aggression. That action seems to have headed off the coming slump. The Chancellor will probably need to adjust his predictions once more but not by a significant margin. The assumed budget surplus of £5.5 billion will be met, maybe modestly exceeded. These healthy figures are largely the result of enhanced revenues from duties, corporate taxes and additional charges on pensions and savings. These "self taxes" — as the Conservatives have called them — have been the making of the public finances.

The Chancellor is not, however, out of the dark woods yet and the economy remains vulnerable to outside uncertainty. His overwhelming objective at the macroeconomic level must be to do no harm. Any substantial increase in state expenditure would make it much harder for the Bank of England to cut interest rates again should that prove desirable. A sudden rise in taxation might push domestic demand in an adverse direction. Mr Brown would thus be wise to play safe, even be dull, confirming existing plans rather than changing them and hoping that his experiment in monetary policy will continue to pay dividends.

That neutral framework will inevitably limit his room for microeconomic manoeuvre. Yet there are several useful initiatives he might take. He should certainly attempt to impose some simplification on the tax system. As Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, noted last week, there are now some 54 differing rates of taxation across the fiscal spectrum compared with a mere seven when Labour came to power. This is a costly and inefficient exercise as well as one that has turned the self-assessment process into sadism. Mr Brown could also cut the corporation tax rates further: industry has suffered a net tax rise of nearly £3 billion over the past two years.

The Chancellor also wants to do more to help the working poor, especially those with children. In this context, he is considering two measures: the taxation of child benefit to allow moneys saved to be redistributed; and the introduction of a new 10 per cent income tax rate. The logic behind the two moves is not entirely complementary. The current system of child benefit is criticised because it sends cash to individuals regardless of their income. Yet any 10 per cent income tax band would also do that. The Chancellor would use his resources better by extending his working families tax credit.

The taxing of child benefit is a more awkward issue. In principle, it is an admirable idea. In practice, it could create numerous anomalies and undermine the principle of independent taxation. If these administrative conundrums can be resolved in a fashion that is itself not impossibly complex, Mr Brown should proceed and ignore pressure group criticism. That may not be the case this year. These difficulties underline the urgent need to render taxation less bureaucratic and burdensome. The best Budget for the coming twelve months — and the best example for the future — will be one that is both boring and simple.

HOW TO SPEND IT

Some welcome signs of a new philanthropy

According to John D. Rockefeller "anyone who dies rich dies disgraced". Many of the very rich and privileged like to do good. And yet the path of philanthropy has never been smooth, attracting criticism either from socialists, who would like private charity to be unnecessary, and fellow capitalists, who think that idealism is a chimera and that self-help is the only help worth having.

Today *The Times* reports how a most unusual entrepreneur and aviation enthusiast, Torquil Norman, is establishing a training centre for 13 to 20-year-olds, pledging over £6 million of his personal fortune to the Round House project in northwest London. And we look at how Sabrina Guinness, a scion of the brewing dynasty, has founded — and used her extensive social contacts to help to fund — a scheme intended to equip underprivileged young people with media skills. There is a new confidence among those using their money and skills for charity that is one of the great goods of the current age on both sides of the Atlantic.

Philanthropy's renaissance has been sparked in part by failures in the welfare state and the acceptance, even by big government's most determined supporters, that attempts to alleviate poverty, both material and cultural, have too often proved costly failures. Social policies planned by politicians and administered by bureaucrats can alleviate symptoms of poverty more easily than they can reach into the causes. Private philanthropy, always most powerful when successful individuals give *ideas and* time as well as money, seeks to fill this need.

The capitalist cavalry is led by captains of industry and finance. The likes of George Soros and Bill Gates are donating sums the size of underdeveloped economies to good causes. Others, Paul Hamlyn, Peter Lampl and their like, are giving smaller amounts but small fortunes nonetheless. These benefactors apply an entrepreneurial culture to philanthropy. If a project does not result in its eexpected fall in unemployment or school truancy, it ceases. Performance is rewarded. Venture charity, like venture capital, aims for measurable results.

The greatest philanthropy comes from those whose sense of worth depends on their acknowledging the duty of the fortunate to help the less fortunate. Samuel Smiles's counsel did not preach only one sense of self-help. He argued that that "the duty of helping oneself in the highest sense involves the helping of one's neighbours".

In America, the tax regime encourages charitable giving more actively than in Britain. Governments can create philanthropy, however, by setting a wider framework than a mere fiscal one. Philanthropy fundamentally depends on the creation of wealth, wealth creation on enterprise, and enterprise on small government. But above that there is the sense, which ebbs and flows with political and social confidence, that good can and should be done by those with the resources to do it.

SLIPPERY SLOPES

Mass tourism makes the sublime Alpine scenery ridiculous

Faith may move mountains but free will forms traffic jams. The snowbound queues of cars currently snaking round Alpine switchbacks are made by tourists who chose this destination for a holiday break. And this weekend, as local authorities abandoned all hope of shifting them, families huddled down in whatever temporary refuge could be created. Hannibal would scarcely have made slower or more uncomfortable progress in his mountain crossing. And J.M.W. Turner's descriptions of blocked passes, fatigue and bad lodging suffered during his 1802 Alpine tour would have borne great resonance in the minds of those who shivered in train stations and on floors of public buildings.

Any who still sit fuming at their steering wheels would do well to recall other grander aspects of Turner's era. There is little chance now for anyone Romantically to muse, as Keats once did, upon an Alp "and half forget what world or worldling meant". Mass tourism has made the sublime ridiculous. And as each year more winter sports enthusiasts are packaged off to resorts, the pistes begin to appear more like motorways with streams of skiers slaloming like cars through traffic cones.

A substantial percentage of these skiers are British. But this is not the only reason that Britain is in part to blame. Although a Grand Tour path through the mountains was fairly well beaten before the Napoleonic Wars, British explorers such as William Coxe, whose *Travels in Switzerland* was published in 1791, laid popular trails and prompted the beginnings of a tourist industry in Chamonix and around Mont Blanc. Wordsworth and his poetic companions further fostered a fashion for lonely wanderings among frowning peaks.

By the middle of the 19th century skiing, formerly a mode of transport, became a sport. Even then, skiers had to scale great heights on foot before the downward hurtle. But by the 1930s rope tows and chairlifts were being built. Tourism flourished apace and grew into an industry. The mountains now are overrun with commerce. Pollution levels on transport passes can equal that of urban centres. Snow cannon fire volleys of water on to slopes, devastating plant life to improve the pistes. Every winter, hundreds of thousands of pounds of explosives are dropped from helicopters to make runs pleasingly shiny for tourists. Little wonder then that the delicate Alpine environment, too, finds itself upon a slippery slope. Decades of human exploitation are leading to the worst disasters for years.

Snowblinded for too long by the blizzards of tourism, regional authorities must remove their goggles and face up to the damage being done. Holidaymakers trapped in traffic tailbacks will have time aplenty to mull over such things as they contemplate the wisdom of their choice to take to the mountains on a peak weekend.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Counting system for Euro polls

From Dr David Butler, FBA, and Mr Peter Snow

Sir, Shortly the Home Office will present to Parliament the draft orders regulating the conduct of the European elections next June. Two items in these orders give cause for concern. There may yet be time to remedy them.

First, counting areas: votes are normally to be counted at the Westminster constituency level and the tallies relayed to the Regional Returning Officer. However, the returning officers are to be left free to determine whether to count and report them at the constituency level or at some subregional level.

Surely any such decision should be a matter of national, not local policy. We are entitled to know how our local constituency has voted. It should not be left to the judgment of a returning officer to decide whether this information should be available to the public.

Second, recounts: the counting is to take place at the Westminster constituency level. The votes are then to be reported to the 11 regional Euro-constituency centres, where the total figures will be aggregated and the seats in that region allocated on a proportional basis. But a recount can only be demanded at the constituency level, not at the final regional count.

Candidates waiting to hear how the constituency votes aggregate to the regional total will not know how close the regional result is until all the constituency results have been reported in. By then it will be too late to demand a recount: the figures will be irrevocable and final.

If, in the final count at the regional level, a candidate wins or loses by a handful of votes, the fact that no recount is to be allowed is bound to be a recipe for cries of unfairness and for litigation. Much expense and aggravation could be saved if recounts were to be delayed until the final count of votes at the regional level is completed. In practice, there would be very few, if any. At the worst, there would be a day's delay while all the votes throughout the one or two regions were comprehensively recounted.

Surely it is not too late to reconsider these two simple administrative points.

Yours,
DAVID BUTLER,
PETER SNOW,
c/o Nuffield College,
Oxford OX1 1NF.
March 7.

Gulf bombing

From Squadron Leader Philip Congdon, RAF (retd)

Sir, The Secretary of State for Defence's letter (March 6) has an echoing emptiness as he justifies the continued bombing of Iraq on the grounds of protection for Marsh Arabs and Kurds and that "he [Saddam Hussein] is trying to kill our pilots" (maybe that's not surprising if they drop bombs).

Mr George Robertson does not explain why the RAF is providing the air defence and attack forces for two of the richest nations in the world who themselves have more than substantial forces for the task. (Are we paying for this?) One has also to ask the question, why do not Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, with the support of their colleagues in the UAE, Oman and Bahrain, now shoulder the burden of their own national defence, underwriting protection and support for Iraqi Kurds and Marsh Arabs?

On my last visit to the Gulf I was asked by a wag if I knew the regimental march for the Saudi and Kuwait armies. I nodded my ignorance. "Oh it's quite obvious," came the reply: *"Onward, Christian Soldiers."*

Who are you kidding Mr Robertson?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CONGDON
(Gulf War veteran),
4 Hindle Fold Lane, Great Harwood,
Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 7PT.
March 7.

Police effectiveness

From Dr Peter Greenhalgh

Sir, As a member of an ethnic community (the Wasps as it happens, but it would be the same for an Afro-Caribbean or Asian Englishman), I question the coupling of ethnicity and homosexuality in the league table of "Positive replies [by police forces] to 27 questions about policing ethnic and gay communities" (March 2). It is even sillier than a blanket condemnation of that other ill-matched couple "sex and violence" on television.

There is wholesome sex and unwholesome sex, good violence (like thrashing moneylenders in the Temple or fighting Hitler) and bad violence (like crucifying a good man or committing genocide).

The only question needing to be asked of our police forces is how effectively they seek out criminals and bring them to justice. Ethnicity and sex *per se* should be as irrelevant in this inquiry as height or girth, and to assume they are not seems more likely to compound the problem that the inquisitors are trying to solve.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GREENHALGH,
Westwood House,
Highcross Road, Westwood,
Southfleet, Kent DA13 9PH.
March 2.

Trade 'victims' of the banana row

From the Trade Policy Officer at Christian Aid

Sir, The current trade row between the US and the EU over bananas (letter, March 5) underlines some of the fundamental inequalities in the world trading system. The US claims, and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agrees, that preferential access for Caribbean bananas in the EU means that US companies cannot compete fairly with Caribbean producers for the European market.

However, the three biggest banana companies — Chiquita, Dole and Del Monte — already control more than two thirds of the world market, while Caribbean producers account for less than 3 per cent. The big companies have been able to dominate the world market and maintain large and increasing profits, even when world banana prices have been falling. By contrast, small farmers in the Caribbean produce bananas on plots which average less than five acres, often on poor soils and with little opportunity for investment. The fall in world prices in the 1990s has already led to increased poverty among banana farmers in the Caribbean.

In these circumstances, further opening of the EU market will lead to greater hardship in the vulnerable economies of the Caribbean. Developing countries need a more equitable world trading regime in order to diversify their economies and improve the livelihoods of their populations.

Yours,
CLAIRE MELAMED,
Trade Policy Officer,
Christian Aid,
PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.
March 5.

From Dr Alan M. Rugman

Sir, Your leading article "Blair's banana skin" (March 5; see also leading article, March 4) provides excellent analysis of how the Scottish cashmere producers are the victims of bad British trade policy.

However, their situation is potentially even more precarious than you demonstrate. If the British Government "guarantees" the bonds required to be paid on cashmere exports to the United States (report, March 5), such assistance is highly likely to be interpreted as an export subsidy. As such, it will be subject to potential US countervailing duty action.

Under US trade law (which is consistent with the WTO rules) any US apparel producer of a "like" product who feels that the subsidised Scottish product will reduce its market share is able to launch a countervailing duty action. The US trade agencies can impose customs duties to offset the subsidy if a threat of material injury is found. Although appeals can be made to a US court, none is allowed to the WTO.

Thus, the Scottish cashmere producers should either decline the British Government subsidies and lobby for the EU to comply with the American banana demands, or start to look for new export markets outside the US.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN M. RUGMAN
(Thames Water Fellow in
Strategic Management),
Templeton College,
University of Oxford,
Oxford OX1 5NY.
alan.rugman@templeton.oxford.ac.uk
March 5.

From Mr Simon Nutbrown

Sir, My company has the licence to publish the art archive of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew as fine art prints. Royalties from the sales are paid to Kew to help fund their global conservation programmes.

Our largest market has been the US, where Kew is a respected name. That, however, is about to change dramatically, as we are faced with the 100 per cent duty which the US has put on fine art prints as a result of the EU banana problem. This duty effectively came into force on March 3.

This is a disastrous situation for my small company. Presumably, someone in the EU is gaining from this banana "war". Will I, therefore, be compensated for the EU's stance?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON NUTBROWN
(Managing Director),
Cornflower Press Limited,
McQueen House,
Silver Street, Reading RG1 2JN.
March 4.

ITV's public service

From Mr Peter Atkinson, MP for Hexham (Conservative)

Sir, ITV's chief executive, Richard Eyre, writes (letter, March 3): "[ITV's] public service is expressed through a mighty breadth of diversity, an incomparable regional service and massive investment in original British production."

Unfortunately, ITV's idea of "public service" does *not* include making its digital television services available to everyone. In contrast to every other UK public service broadcaster, ITV is refusing to transmit its digital services (digital ITV and ITV2) by both satellite and terrestrial means.

As a result, several million viewers in areas without digital terrestrial reception or cable — many of whom live in the more rural and remote parts of the country — will be deprived of ITV's digital services for many years to come.

Last week two parliamentary colleagues and I held a meeting in the House of Commons to discuss this issue (which the Office of Fair Trading is also looking into). The majority view of parliamentarians who spoke was that ITV's digital services should also be on satellite in order to serve *all* of our constituents.

ITV's argument that satellite transmission might fatally weaken the digital terrestrial platform is unconvincing, given that all other public service broadcasters, the BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5 and the regional service S4C already offer their services free by satellite whilst having significant interests in digital terrestrial television.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ATKINSON,
House of Commons.
March 3.

From Mr Ronald Williams

Sir, I cannot but admire the verbal ingenuity of Richard Eyre in striving to defend ITV against charges of dumbing down; particularly in his phrase "that whilst ITV does not try to flatter an intellectual elite . . .".

This reminds me of the story (which I like to believe is true) of a conscientious, though somewhat obsequious, biographer of Edward VII who, when faced with the necessity of confronting the sheer gluttony of that monarch, recorded that His Majesty was not given to toying with his food.

Yours sincerely,
R. W. WILLIAMS,
10 Pine Park Mansions,
1 Wilderton Road,
Poole, Dorset BH13 6EB.
March 5.

Rail fares examined

From Mr Barry S. Doe

Sir, The Association of Train Operating Companies is constantly trying to convince rail users that "fares are going down in real terms" (letter from the director-general, March 4). I have been analysing rail fares since the late 1960s, and examining separately the fares of the new train operators since privatisation: I am alarmed at what is happening.

For example, 17 operators serve London. Ignoring advance-purchase tickets (which are used by only 7 per cent of travellers and then only for longer-distance journeys), I have examined by how much each of their other fares has risen between June 1995 and January 1999 — a period when inflation has been 12 per cent. A few of these are legally capped to inflation. Of the remainder, two thirds have risen well over inflation — Virgin Trains being the worst culprit.

The director-general's claim can be upheld only if many new, very cheap fares that require booking up to a week in advance are taken into the calculations. These have no relevance for the "walk-on" casual or daily user.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY S. DOE,
25 Newmorton Road,
Bournemouth BH9 3NU.
March 4.

Nigerian elections

From Mr Charles Buss

Sir, The Nigerian people were given the "choice" between a former military dictator, General Olusegun Obasanjo, and his former Finance Minister, Olu Falae, in an election controlled by the military (report and leading article, March 2).

Commentators may disagree as to whether the turnout reflected support for the candidates themselves or rather the desire of the Nigerian people to show that they wish to be heard. I suspect that most queued at the polling stations for the latter reason. If so, their resolve should be celebrated. I find the election of General Obasanjo is harder to applaud.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES BUSS,
15 Fremont Street, E9 7NQ.
cbuss@wfw.com
March 2.

From Mr Philip Warner

Sir, Why does your diarist call General Olusegun Obasanjo "the dodgy general" (March 2)?

In your leader you acknowledge his military distinction and national reputation. He was a member of a Commonwealth committee of "eminent persons" to advise on the South African situation, and when he was the leader of an earlier military regime he made an honest attempt to return Nigeria to civilian rule. He was clearly an enemy of the Abacha regime.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP WARNER,
Birch Wood House,
Cadnam, Southampton SO40 2NR.
March 2.

Sport letters, page 34

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Tied in knots — not for first time

From Mr Christopher Purple

Sir, The work of two Cambridge physicists, Thomas Fink and Yong Mao, in developing new methods of knotting ties well deserved front-page coverage in today's *Times*. Their new, simple method of starting with the tie inside out represents Cambridge brilliance at its best.

I can vouch for the success of the method, having used it for the past 35 years, since learning it as a 15-year-old from my brother in deepest Norfolk.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER PURPLE,
25 Oxlease, Witney,
Oxfordshire OX8 6QZ.
March 4.

From Mr Christopher Hough

Sir, However fashionable the knot, to depict, as you did, a blue shirt and yellow tie combination is worryingly passé. Small pockets of yellow ties remain — for example, Paddy Ashdown, William Hague and television news reporters, but these are hardly fashion icons.

For the benefit of your readers, the new look is the ubiquitous blue shirt, but with the more dashing red tie.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HOUGH,
199 Strand, WC2R 1DR.
March 4.

From Mr Gordon Brudenell

Sir, The last knot mentioned (and illustrated) in Nigel Hawkes's report has certainly been invented before — if not by Gordius, King of Ancient Phrygia, then by Paul Daniels.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON BRUDENELL,
95 Little Sutton Road,
Sutton Coldfield B75 6PT.

From Mrs Karen Bradshaw

Sir, My four-year-old son has also been experimenting with the tie that he has had to wear since starting school. The knots he achieves are invariably "complex, unbalanced and unaesthetic".

Unfortunately, unlike the scientists in your report, he does not feel the need to eliminate them from his repertoire and wears them with much pride.

Yours faithfully,
KAREN BRADSHAW,
Somerdale, Pennymead Drive,
East Horsley, Surrey KT24 5AH.
kfbradshaw@aol.com
March 4.

From Mr Dave Hepworth

Sir, Could the ingenious Cambridge physicists turn their minds to the rather more knotty problem of why we wear such strange things as ties in the first place?

Yours,
DAVE HEPWORTH,
Wayside, Mires Lane,
Rowland, Bakewell DE45 1NP.
March 4.

Buses to the back

From Mrs Diana Robinson

Sir, If, as reported (*The Sunday Times*, February 28), "buses pick up and drop off at the rear perimeter" while "there is a car drop-off [point] at the front" of the Millennium Dome bus station, then the concept of a "service entrance" has indeed been set in concrete and, it seems, public transport is officially second-class, notwithstanding new Labour or new century.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA ROBINSON,
58 Manor Park Road,
York YO30 5UL.
March 1.

Royal beef

From Mrs Marilyn Branston

Sir, I'm delighted to see that you English are having no greater success with Prohibition than we Americans had back in the Roaring Twenties (report, "Prince goes near the bone over beef", March 2; letters, March 3).

Soon we'll be able to sneak into some small, secret dive by whispering "Prince Charles sent me" through a little panel in the door. The only problem will be how to squeeze a T-bone into a hip flask.

Yours drily,
MARILYN BRANSTON,
50 Holdenhurst Avenue, N12 0JB.
March 4.

No alternative

From Mr N. L. Denton

Sir, I have just bought a new pair of slippers. The label states:

Upper: Other Materials
Sole: Other Materials
Lining: Other Materials

While I am sure that this description is fully compliant with all the appropriate EU directives, it would be handy to know what the alternatives were.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL L. DENTON,
12 Maria Court, Southcote Road,
Reading RG30 3AS.
n.l.@denton446.freeserve.co.uk
March 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 6: The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Commander Loftus Peyton-Jones at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Commander David Cobb which was held in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, London, today.

The Prince Edward was represented by Mr Paul Arengo-Jones.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 6: The Duke of York this morning laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, and visited the Ho Chi Minh Memorial House.

Afterwards, His Royal Highness returned to Ho Chi Minh City. This afternoon, The Duke of York visited the Cu Chi Tunnels.

This evening, His Royal Highness departed Vietnam for London Heathrow.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 7: The Duke of York this morning arrived at London Heathrow from Vietnam.

Captain Neil Blair, RN, and Mr David Tuck were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 7: The Princess Royal this afternoon departed from London Heathrow Airport to visit Japan, the Philippines and New Zealand. Mrs Andrew Feilden and Mr Rupert McGuigan are in attendance.

Birthdays today

Major-General Sir Christopher Airy, royal equerry, 65; Mr Nicolas Bevan, Speaker's Secretary, 57; Mr Gyles Brandreth, author, broadcaster and publisher, 51; Sir Julian Bullard, former diplomat, 71; Professor Sir Donald Campbell, former President, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 69; Sir Anthony Caro, sculptor, 75; Major Graham T. Dunnett, Lord-Lieutenant of Caithness, 70; Mr Phil Edmonds, cricketer, 48; Mr Michael Grade, chief executive, First Leisure, 56; Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, 69; Mr Michael Inchbald, designer, 79; Miss Ann Jenner, ballerina, 55; Mr Irek Mukhamedov, ballet dancer, 39; Miss Lynn Redgrave, actress, 56; Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi, 51; Miss Lynn Seymour, ballerina, 60; Professor S.K. Smith, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 48; Professor Norman Stone, modern historian, 58; Mr Robert Tear, tenor, 60; the Ven P.R. Turner, chaplain, Dulwich College, 57; Sir John Ward, former MP, 74; Mr David Wilkie, swimmer, 45.

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey at 3.15. Later they will attend a reception at Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1 to mark the 50th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth at 6.30.

The Duke of York will attend a dinner to mark the opening of the Nato Conference at Lancaster House, London, at 7.35.



Service dinners

The Essex Regiment (TA)
Mr John Norris, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the 4th/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA) Officers Dinner Club held on Saturday at Oakington Barracks, Cambridge. Colonel Geoffrey Morgan presided.

39th (Skinners) Signal Regiment
Mr John Boyd, QC, was the guest speaker at a dinner of the 39th (Skinners) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) held on Saturday at Skinners' Hall. Lieutenant-Colonel J. Crackett, Commanding Officer, presided. The Regimental Honorary Colonel, the Master of the Skinners' Company and the Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol were among the guests.

Royal Marines
The Rev David Burgess was among the guests at the annual dinner of the Royal Marines Officers' Dinner Club held on Friday at Lincoln's Inn. Major-General John Hardy presided.

Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews Universities' Air Squadron
Air Vice-Marshal T.W. Rimmer, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant Royal Air Force College Cranwell, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews Universities' Air Squadron held on Friday at RAF Leuchars. Squadron Leader N.W. Willey, Commanding Officer, presided. Among others present were:

Professor Struther Arnott, principal, St Andrews' University, Professor David Swinfen, Vice-Principal, Dundee University, Professor Frank McIntosh, Vice-Principal, Robert Gordon University and Air Commodore J.H. Haines, Air Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Nature notes

IN THE north wind, robins find a perch that protects their backs, and face south to let the low sun warm their breasts. By contrast, black-headed gulls out on a field or sitting on goalposts face into the wind so that it does not ruffle their feathers. Many winter visitors are still in Britain, including redwings. These small thrushes with a white eye-stripe and a red flash under their wing have started coming into gardens in the frost and snow. Long-tailed tits, which are among the earliest nesters, are already prospecting for sites in hedges and gorse bushes. More hedge sparrows are singing their thin, piping songs, and house sparrows are producing the long strings of chirps that pass for singing among them. Last summer's seeds are finally dispersing. Dry keys are blowing down from the ash trees, and crumbling clusters of hooked seeds on the burdock plants are catching onto dog fur and trousers. On hazel bushes, the catkins are filling with pollen and starting to swing in the wind. DJM



The redwing



Gainsborough's portrait of George Byam, a wealthy merchant, and his family, which was donated to Marlborough College

Family protest at picture sale

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

THE family of a man who donated a Gainsborough now worth £3 million to one of Britain's leading public schools yesterday voiced anger at the decision to sell the painting and warned potential donors to spell out in writing their exact wishes for the gift's future.

Karen MacAuslan, a GP in Catford, southeast London, whose great-uncle Henry Hony gave the picture to Marlborough College in 1955, said that other potential donors will now think twice. She said: "If you ever do want to make a donation, make sure you specify what you want long-term." The donor's eldest daughter, Selina Hony, said that 50 years ago, no one ever thought that anything needed to be put in writing: "If someone gave something to you, you kept it. It was an assumption."

The Tate Gallery is believed to want the painting, but unless a public institution can raise the money, it is likely to go abroad. Dr MacAuslan said: "The family feel very strongly that the picture should remain in the public domain in this country. It is of national importance."

The Wiltshire school, she added, had not informed them they planned to sell. "The first we heard was a rumour." Since then, attempts to find out more have failed. She said: "They won't tell us what's happening. It is very upsetting."

She is unconvinced by the school's argument that it needs the money. When the school was first questioned, it suggested it did not have the resources to care for the painting. But, when the family proposed the solution of a loan to the National Gallery or Tate Gallery, the school then said it needed money for a swimming pool. Later the money was wanted for an arts centre.

The lifesize portrait — one of the artist's largest at 98in by 94in — depicts George Byam (1734-79) of Apse Court, Surrey, with his wife and daughter. They were a merchant family with interests in the West Indies. The painting was donated by one of their descendants, the great-grandson of the girl in the portrait, Henry Hony. Explaining his donation to his twin sister, he had said that the family had so many connections with the college and "we can always see it there".

Dr MacAuslan said Henry had thought the college would keep it and not regard it "as a chattel in store for a rainy day". She added: "The family feel that if it was allowed to go anywhere except to a gallery or museum in the UK, this would be a gross violation of Henry Hony's intentions."

Its sale is being negotiated by Christie's which, she said, has been "cagey" in releasing details to the family: "They said it was at the Tate, which was having a look at it."

The picture is believed to be the most significant painting by the artist to come onto the market since Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey, caused a furore by selling a Gainsborough bequeathed by its founder for £3.5 million.

Charles Saumarez Smith, director of the National Portrait Gallery, one of several Old Marlburians who have become museum directors, said that the painting had made a deep impact during his school years, 1967 to 1971: "Much of my interest in 18th-century British painting derived from the daily experience of being educated in a school which had a major Gainsborough painting." He added: "I very much regret the fact that the school felt it necessary to put on the market its only major cultural asset, and will regret it even more if the picture cannot be purchased by a major British public institution."

Dr MacAuslan expressed anger that the school, in writing to parents to inform them of the sale, suggested that the donor's family, which includes Hony's three daughters, eight nephews and nieces, and their 26 adult sons and daughters, had given their blessing.

No one at Marlborough College was available for comment.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Fothergill, physician, Wensleydale, Yorkshire, 1712; Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, Weimar, Germany, 1714; Richard Howe, Earl Howe, admiral, London, 1726; William Roscoe, historian, Liverpool, 1753; Charles Rossi, sculptor, Nottingham, 1762; Kenneth Grahame, author of The Wind in the Willows, Edinburgh, 1859; Frederic William Goudy, typographer, Bloomington, Illinois, 1865; Otto Hahn, pioneer of nuclear fission, Nobel laureate 1944, Frankfurt am Main, 1879.

DEATHS: King William III, reigned with Mary II 1689-94, then alone to 1702, London, 1702; Sawrey Gilpin, animal painter, London, 1807; Hector Berlioz, composer, Paris, 1869; Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, airship constructor, Charlottenburg, Germany, 1917; Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor, London, 1961; Harold Lloyd, film comedian, Beverly Hills, 1971; Richard Austen Butler, politician, Great Yeldham, Essex, 1982; Sir William Walton, composer, Ischia, 1983.

The February revolution began in Russia (ending on March 14), these dates being in the New Style Gregorian calendar, 1917.

Memorial services

Commander David Cobb
The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Commander Loftus Peyton-Jones and Prince Edward by Mr Paul Arengo-Jones at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Commander David Cobb held on Saturday in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy.

The Rev John Robson, Chaplain to The Queen, officiated. Mr David Bailey and Miss Tiggy Grillo read the lessons. Commander John Crisp gave an address. The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London was represented by Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, accompanied by Lady Craig-Cooper. The Mayor and Mayoress of Kensington & Chelsea attended. Among others present were:

Mrs Mary Cobb (sister-in-law), Miss Penny Cobb, Mrs Jody Buckley, Mrs Sarah Roberts, Mrs Jimmy Grillo, Mrs Jo Bridgeland, Mr Nick Cobb, Miss Kate Cartmell, Mr Anthony Cartmell, Dr Nick Cartmell, Mr Jonathan Roberts, Tom Bridgeland, Sam Cobb, Mrs Daphne Kennedy, Mrs Emily Cobb, Mr Michael Buckley, Mr Dick Grillo, Mr Paul Bridgeland, Dr Joe Mamam, representatives of the UK and Overseas offices of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, the London Sailing Project, sail training associations and many friends from the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands.

Sir James and Lady Whitaker
The Mayor of Retford attended a memorial service for Sir James and Lady Whitaker held on Friday at St Swithun's, Retford, Nottinghamshire. Canon John Ottey officiated, assisted by the Rev Bob Smith and the Very Rev David Leaning who said prayers.

Sir Jack Whitaker, son, and Mrs David Price, daughter, read the lessons. Mr Colin Jenkins, Principal of the Atlantic College, Mr Dick Hornby, Mr Alastair Cameron, nephew and the Rev David Whitaker, brother of Sir James, gave addresses. Among others present were:

Lady Whitaker (daughter-in-law), Mr David Price (son-in-law), Miss Lucy Whitaker, Harry, Alix and Eleanor Whitaker, Miss Hesther Price and Mr William Price (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Ben Whitaker, Mrs David Whitaker, Mrs Gill Cameron, Mr Quincey Whitaker, Mr Razak Whitaker, the Rev Ben Whitaker, Mr Robert Whitaker, Miss Lucy Whitaker, Miss Iona Whitaker, Mr Jonathan Whitaker and Mrs Sarah Cameron with other members of the family, friends and representatives of the Atlantic College and local organisations.

Meeting

Three Faiths Forum
The Speaker presented Grand Rabbin Rene Samuel Sirat of Paris with the ICCJ Interfaith Gold Medallion at a meeting of the Three Faiths Forum held yesterday at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Mr Ivor Caplin, MP. Sir Sigmund Sternberg presided.

Dinners

Old Elysian Club
The Hon Bernard Jenkin, MP, was the guest of honour and speaker at the centenary year annual dinner of the William Ellis School, Old Elysian Club 1899-1999 held on Saturday at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Mr Jenkin. Mr Brian Duker presided. Mr Michael Wheale, Head Master, also spoke. Mr Martin Hayman, chairman of governors, was among those present.

Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club
Mr Christopher Barnett, Commodore of the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, Dover, accompanied by Mrs Barnett, presided at the annual Commodore's dine-in held on Saturday at the club.

Royal College of Radiologists
Professor P. Armstrong, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Mrs Armstrong were the hosts at a dinner held on Friday at 38 Portland Place.

Legal appointment

Lord Justice Waller has been appointed Chairman of the Judicial Studies Board in succession to Lord Justice Henry.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.J.F. Exell and Miss D.E. Newman
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr David Exell, of Wrington, North Somerset, and Mrs Hilary Davies-Jones, of Clifton, North Somerset, and Deborah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Newman, of Sunningdale, Berkshire.

Mr R.S. Fulton and Miss C.M. McMahon
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs James Fulton, of Haxey, North Lincolnshire, and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward McMahon, of Cockfosters, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.J. Helmsley and Miss G. Ní Dhubhghaill
The engagement is announced between Dominic, younger son of the late Mr Edward Helmsley and of Mrs Helmsley, of Exeter, Devon, and Gráinne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Antoin O' Dubhghaill, of Ballysheedy, Limerick, Ireland.

Mr C.J.S. Wix and Miss R. Montes Diez
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Wix, of Thatcham, Berkshire, and Raquel, only daughter of D. Gabriel Montes de la Hoz and Da. M. Carmen Diez Polvorinos, of Almanza, Leon, Spain.

Marriages

Mr M. Badran and Miss G.A.J. Scott-Oldfield
The marriage was celebrated in Cairo, on Friday, March 5, between Mohamed, son of Mr Shams Badran and Mrs Mona Roushdy, and Gratia, daughter of Mr John Scott-Oldfield and Mrs Honora Scott-Oldfield.

Mr C.D. Mann and Miss G.S. Winlaw
The marriage took place, in London, on March 5, of Caspar, son of Mr and Mrs Stewart Douglas-Mann, and Grania, daughter of Mr Antony Winlaw and Mrs Carole Winlaw.

Mr D.L. Pickett and Mrs C. Morley-Fletcher
The marriage took place on Sunday, March 7, 1999, at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, between David Pickett and Susan Morley-Fletcher.

Mr Peter Cotes

A memorial meeting to celebrate the life of Peter Cotes (1912-1998) Theatre Director and Writer, will be held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, on Monday, March 22, 1999, at 3pm. All are welcome.

Dr Robert Murray

A service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the life of Dr Robert Murray, OBE, will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 1999, at 2.00pm at the Crown Court Church of Scotland, Russell Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2.

HM Forces

Royal Air Force
Air Commodore
B P Doggett, MOD (PE), 6.3.99
Wing Commander
S M Lea, HQSTC High Wycombe, 1.2.99; T N J Pemberton-Pigott, HQSTC High Wycombe, 13.2.99; D T J Hadnett, HQLC RAF Wyton, 22.2.99; A J Pollock, PMA RAF Innsworth, 8.3.99.

Baron Patel

The life barony conferred upon Sir Narendra Babubhai Patel has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Patel, of Dunkeld in Perth and Kinross.

Service luncheon

Operation "Grapple"
The annual reunion luncheon of officers who served on Christmas Island during Operation "Grapple" was held on Saturday at the RAF Club, Piccadilly.

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For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face. Psalm 11.7 (NRSV).

BIRTHS

FIENNES - To Pauline and Martin (and Grandparents) on 23rd February, Ned Richard Ling, a brother for Guy.

JONES - On 22nd February 1999, to Helen (née Roberts) and Chris, a wonderful son, Maximilian Edward Neale. Special thanks to the IVF Unit at Hammersmith Hospital for making our dream come true.

MILLS - Amanda (née Baker) and Guy are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter Brittany Isabel Louise at Epsom Hospital on March 3rd.

RIBEIRO BRADY - On February 28th at Watford Hospital, to Christianne Ferreira Ribeiro and Mark Brady, a son, Fábio.

DEATHS

ABELA-HYZLER - Dr Paul, CBE, MD, FFPHM, peacefully at the Woking Hospice on 5th March 1999, with characteristic dignity and faith. Precious husband of Lise and devoted father of Adrian, Julian and Caroline. Funeral service to be held in Malta. Memorial service in UK to be announced later. Donations, if desired, to the Woking Hospice.

BAGSHAWE - George Fox on February 9th, followed by beloved wife Edith Mary on March 2nd peacefully at the Purey-Cust Nuffield Hospital, York after a short illness.

BALMAIN - Colonel Malcolm (Mac) Stewart Balmain OBE, DL, late of 15th/19th The Kings Royal Hussars, at home on 3rd March aged 85. Much loved husband of Heather, father of Ann and Stewart and grandfather of James, Iain and Peter. Private cremation, Friday 12th March. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Stannington, Northumberland 2.30 pm, Saturday 13th March.

DRYSDALE - Ian. Peacefully in Bearsden on Friday 5th March 1999 in his 87th year, Ian Drysdale, beloved husband of the late Rosalind, father of Bill, Tom, Robin and Donald and a much loved grandfather. Funeral Service at Buchlyvie Church at 11.30am on Friday 12th March and thereafter at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar, arriving 1.30pm. Family flowers only please.

GEBEL - Adam Leopold, dearly loved by all his family and friends, died at home on 2nd March, 1999, aged 86. Service and cremation at West London Crematorium, Kensal Green, East Chapel, on Tuesday, March 16th at 11.00 am. Request no flowers. Donations, if desired, to The British Heart Foundation.

KILLINGTON - Albert James, suddenly on March 2nd. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, Bucks, on Friday March 12th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations to South Bucks NHS Trust would be greatly appreciated c/o Wright Funeral Services, 106 High Street, Great Missenden, HP16 0BE.

LAMONT-JONES - Celia O.B.E. peacefully at Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton on 3rd March 1999 aged 83 years. Widow of Cecil. Much loved Aunt of Colin, William and John Wood. Funeral Service to be held on 11th March at 11 0'clock at All Saints Church, Hove, Sussex followed by committal at 2 o'clock at All Saints Church, Sanderstead. Enquiries to Funeral Directors, Atree & Kent, 108 Church Road, Hove, Sussex, tel 01273 821985.

LOUGHRAN - Patricia McDaniel on 4th March 1999, a long life took her from Broome, Western Australia to London via many years in Singapore and Positano. A mother, grandmother and mother-in-law of great dignity and generosity.

SCHOTT - Evelyn Diana, elder daughter of Colonel and Mrs George Ireland Fraser, died peacefully at home on Tuesday 2nd March 1999. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Brompton, Knightsbridge on Thursday 11th March at noon. Family flowers only, or donations may be sent to The Injured Jockeys Fund c/o J H. Kenyon telephone 0171-937 0372.

WIGNALL - Edward (Eddie) Holmes MA, Associate Member Officer of the Noble Order of St John of Jerusalem, beloved husband of Gloria, devoted father of Matthew (1958), Gordon and Heather, died peacefully at home from cancer on 3rd March 1999 aged 66. He also leaves his dear daughter-in-law Cecile and five lovely grandchildren. An open exhibitioner at St Catharine's College, Cambridge 1948 - 1952, he then served as an officer in the education branch of the RAF during National Service. He spent his working life in the Public Sector, with the National Coal Board, the Electricity Council and as a Member of the Police Complaints Authority, retiring in 1996. For 9 years he was a councillor on the then Crawley Urban District Council, serving as its Chairman, in his last year. A generous and caring man, he will be greatly missed by his family and by many who's lives he touched. A funeral service will be held at St Johns Church, Crawley on Thursday 11 March at 12:15pm followed by committal at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund or St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley. C/O P.A.Martin, Three Bridges, Crawley, to whom all enquiries should be made.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DAY - A Service to celebrate the life of Anthony Samuel (Tony) Day will be held on Saturday May 8th at Charterhouse at 12 noon. For further information please contact the Recorders Office at Charterhouse on (01483) 291585.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

MALMESBURY - A service of thanksgiving for the life of Bridget, Countess of Malmesbury, formerly Bridget Graham Hawkings, will be held at All Saints Church, Odiham, Hampshire on Saturday, March 27th at 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

TARA Happy Birthday, you have been adopted in 1970. I never stopped loving you. From Montreal your first mother and your sisters. Ann Carrier 514 843 5248 or e-mail carrs@total.net

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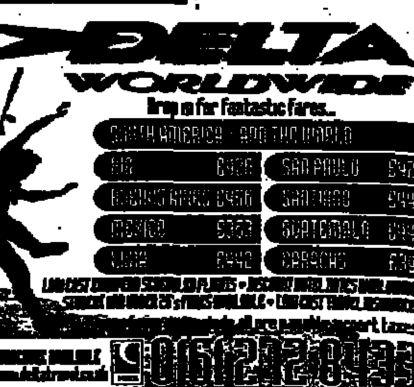
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



OBITUARIES

STANLEY KUBRICK

Stanley Kubrick, film-maker, died yesterday at his Hertfordshire home aged 70. He was born in New York on July 26, 1928.

A powerful and uncompromising talent, Stanley Kubrick first came to prominence with a scathing treatment of the hypocrisies of war in *Paths of Glory* (1957) and went on to make a succession of distinctively individual films, each completely different from the one before. He could move from the outrageous black comedy of *Dr Strangelove* (1964), to the calmer, more cerebral approach of *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), one of his most remarkable films. Likewise he could make films as totally different as the nightmare vision of *A Clockwork Orange* and his exploration of the machinations of the 18th-century officer class in *Barry Lyndon*.

Yet there were common factors. His work was infused with a deep pessimism about his fellow creatures, whom he often portrayed as being unable to control — their destiny. He had a penchant for subversive humour. Technically he was a master of his craft, with a striking visual sense and the ability to handle complicated narratives. He could work with equal facility in a number of styles, from documentary realism to the furthest flights of fantasy.

Kubrick was a meticulous director who often spent years in the preparation and shooting of a film, planning each shot with obsessive precision. This inevitably limited his output and a new film every four to five years became his norm. It also, according to his critics, produced a detached and impersonal quality, a charge particularly levelled against his later films. But it was in the nature of Kubrick's work to divide critical opinion, arousing the extremes of adulation and censure. He was a director about whom it was impossible to be neutral.

He was born in the Bronx district of New York, the son of a doctor, who encouraged him to take up photography as a hobby. Infatuated with the cinema from boyhood, he got his first job at 16 as a staff photographer on the magazine *Look*. The transition from still photography to movies came in 1950 when he directed a 16-minute documentary about a boxer, *Day of the Fight*, which he sold to RKO-Pathé. There was another documentary and then, in 1953, his first feature, *Fear and Desire*, a low budget film made with money borrowed from relatives and friends. It was virtually a one-man show, with Kubrick performing all the directing and production functions: writing the script, directing, filming and loading the camera.

He similarly financed his next film, *Killer's Kiss* (1955), which he based on his own original screenplay about a boxer who rescues a girl from the clutches of a gangster. Less important than the banal story was Kubrick's inventive direction (again, he performed most of the other functions, too), with several touches worthy of a film-maker of far greater experience. He was now ready to move from B pictures to main features.

In partnership with the producer James B. Harris, he was able to get backing from United Artists for *The Killing* (1956), a taut thriller about a racetrack robbery. The theme, of the perfect crime that goes wrong, had been used many times in Hollywood, but Kubrick gave it a new life with his crisp and confident handling. He also drew vivid performances from seasoned character actors such as Sterling Hayden and Elisha Cook. It was his first work to receive serious attention from reviewers.

With the release in the following year of *Paths of Glory*, Kubrick, still not yet 30, emerged at a stroke into the front rank of American directors. Set on the Western Front in the First World War, the film follows the fate of three ordinary French soldiers who are court-martialled and executed after a disastrous sortie in order to save the face of the high command. It was a triumph on all levels, as an exploration of character and motive, for its dramatic qualities and, not least, a superb piece of film-making which drew graphic contrasts between the lot of the men in the trenches and the comfortable existence of the officers commanding them.

A big critical success, *Paths of Glory* fared only moderately at the box office and since Kubrick had worked not for a salary but for a percentage of the profits, a lean time lay ahead of him. Kubrick had to wait two years for his next film. *Spartacus* (1960) was an assignment offered to him when the original director, Anthony Mann, withdrew. It was the only film in his career Kubrick did not choose to make. But he handled the conventions of the big-budget Hollywood epic with considerable flair and if he regarded the film as a chore, it is one of the more intelligent examples of the genre.

In 1961 Kubrick moved to Britain, feeling that this would offer him greater independence, and from now on his work was based in this country. His first British film, ironically, was set in the United States: *Lolita* (1962), an adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov's novel about the infatuation of a middle-aged lecturer (brilliantly played by James Mason) with a 14-year-old girl. The picture was notable for Kubrick's black humour and contained a memorably manic supporting performance from Peter Sellers.

Both black comedy and Sellers were strongly featured in Kubrick's nuclear war fantasy, *Dr Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*. Sellers played three parts, including the mad doctor of the title, a latter-day Nazi masterminding the American nuclear programme; and the film was a joyous amalgam of satire and farce in service of the ultimately tragic subject, the destruction of the world.

For *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Kubrick moved boldly away from traditional story-telling, with its emphasis on dialogue and character, and relied instead on the suggestive power of visual imagery. Kubrick called *2001* a "non-verbal experience" and it is half an hour before any words are spoken. In tracing the journey of a group of astronauts towards Jupiter, years into the future, Kubrick was helped by some of the most astonishing special effects seen in the cinema up to that time.

In 1971 Kubrick made his most controversial film, *A Clockwork Orange*, a bleak view of a society dominated by mindless violence. The picture was criticised for parading what it was seeking to condemn, though the potency of Kubrick's vision (suggested by the novel by Anthony Burgess) was undeniable. Coming out in the midst of a national debate about the effects of violence on the screen, *A Clockwork Orange* was banned by several local authorities.

There could hardly be greater contrast between this film and *Barry Lyndon*, a long, elegantly mounted but dramatically low-key version of a minor Thackeray novel of the same title. Nor was Kubrick's reputation enhanced by *The Shining* (1980); a disappointingly indulgent excursion into the horror genre, and when, after another five-year gap, he started work on a new picture, *Full Metal Jacket*, a return to form seemed overdue. In this film, which was released in 1987, Kubrick returned to the theme of the brutalising effects of militarism and war, in what was an unsparing adaptation of a Gustav Hasford novel.

It went some way towards redeeming his reputation, though it was generally regarded as lacking the subtlety and compassion of his earlier *Paths of Glory*.

Opinion was by this time divided on Kubrick's overall merits. His detractors thought him fussy and pretentious, while to his considerable army of admirers he was simply one of the cinema's great talents. Kubrick liked to enshroud himself in mystery and at the time of his death had been working on a new film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, for the past two years. It is due to be released in July.

Stanley Kubrick was three times married and is survived by his wife Christiane and by three daughters.


Kubrick: technically he was master of his craft and possessed a striking visual sense

THE EMIR OF BAHRAIN

Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, ruler of Bahrain since 1961, died after a heart attack on March 6 aged 65. He was born on June 3, 1933.

In a 37-year stewardship of his country, 27 of them as Emir following Bahrain's independence, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa had steered his country through a series of crises of the sort that are endemic in a small state surrounded by powerful and often volatile neighbours and subject to fluctuating oil prices. Bahrain had been the first Gulf state to find oil in the 1930s, but its small reserves soon dwindled. It was Sheikh Isa's principal achievement to build a future for Bahrain which emancipated his country from this shrinking asset.

Sheikh Isa based his strategy for Bahrain's future prosperity on the island's traditional position as a trading centre. He encouraged the development of banking, in which he was helped by the internal instability of Lebanon and the Israeli invasion of the country which damaged its position. Over a period of twenty years banking became the major source of Bahrain's prosperity.

Under Sheikh Isa's rule the economy of Bahrain also diversified immensely, to include mining and heavy industries, shipbuilding and iron and steel production, as well as a large aluminium smelter which has made the country the region's largest producer. He always said that his greatest single contribution to the island's prosperity was the 16-mile causeway, opened in 1986, which now links Bahrain to Saudi Arabia.

In foreign policy, Sheikh Isa forged close links with the West, particularly America, which used Bahrain as a base for the US Fifth Fleet during the Gulf War of 1991, drawing the fire of Iraqi Scud missiles down on the island. Relations with both Iraq and Iran were consistently uneasy. In common with other Gulf states Bahrain had supported Iraq during the Iran-Iraq conflict of 1980-88. But the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 put an end to this fragile relationship and propelled Bahrain firmly into the arms of America.

Relations with Iran were similarly volatile, reflecting the tensions within Bahrain itself. The Bahrain government repeatedly accused Iran of fomenting trouble among its Shia Muslim population, which represents a slender majority in a country in which Sunni Muslims are nevertheless dominant — and provide the royal family.

Under Sheikh Isa Bahrain remained a traditional Arab autocracy. There was a flirtation with democracy in the 1970s, with elections to a national assembly. But it was a short-lived experiment and the emir soon reverted to personal rule.

Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa was the son of Sheikh Sulman bin Hamad al-Khalifa who had reigned over Bahrain as a British protectorate since 1942. He came to the throne in 1961, only six years after nationalist opponents had tried to unseat his father, and with the tide of republican Nasserism still flowing strongly throughout the region.

His father had used the oil revenues to institute a full welfare state system of free health and education services. But by 1961 the oil wells were nearly dry and the islands were heavily populated by a demographically young and literate population, divided almost equally between Shia and Sunni Muslims. Unemployment was incipient. Furthermore, an Iranian claim to Bahrain, pursued since the 19th century, was inhibiting foreign investment and the people were highly susceptible to the trumpet blasts of subversion from revolutionary Arab capitals, characterising the ruling family as spendthrift creatures of British imperialism.

Against this background, Sheikh Isa was under some pressure from his British protectors to inaugurate democratic and administrative reform. However, his preferred method was the traditional Arab way of direct contact between ruler and people. His open council was available to all Bahrainis every day of the week, and he moved freely and without guards among his people.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s his skills were tested to the utmost. In May and June 1967, Bahrain, like the whole Arab world, was gripped by war fever which culminated in the disaster to Arab arms of the June war. In Bahrain the presence of a British military base was additionally inflammatory. Sheikh Isa maintained control of the situation and personally saved the British Political Agency from being sacked by an angry crowd by singlehandedly compelling them to disperse. Foreign businessmen visiting the islands at the time were persuaded to go ahead with investment plans by the evidence of basic stability at a moment of such high tension.

Within months of this crisis subsiding Sheikh Isa was confronted with the abrupt decision of the British Government to terminate the protective treaties with Bahrain at the end of 1971. This came as a profound shock, especially since the Iranian claim was still unsettled and the economy had become dangerously dependent on the income and employment emanating from the substantial British military presence.

He went along with the desire of the other Gulf rulers for a federation but he privately believed, rightly as it turned out, that Bahrain would eventually have to go it alone. He co-operated with the United Nations exercise which, in 1970, brought about a settlement of the Iranian claim, while his government made strenuous efforts to stimulate the flagging economy. On August 15, 1971, Bahrain achieved its independence and became a member of the Arab League and the United Nations. The storms had been weathered and the oil boom of the 1970s brought unprecedented prosperity to the island as offshore and other businesses chose Bahrain for their headquarters as being the most congenial location in the Southern Gulf.

In the years to come, Sheikh Isa's foreign policy reflected the consensual nature of his domestic policy. He knew that a small and strategically placed country with a volatile population needs to have powerful friends and to avoid making dangerous enemies. He kept close to the centre of the Arab consensus on emotive issues such as Palestine and chose Saudi Arabia as his main protector. Under his genial exterior, Sheikh Isa concealed a shrewd and sceptical intelligence. Many a pompous visiting grandee, departing purring at the warmth of his reception, would have been surprised to hear the caustic comments made to the intimates who had stayed behind.

Late in 1972 a new constitution was promulgated, providing for direct elections to a national assembly, and these took place in the following year. But the democratic experiment did not last. In 1975 the Prime Minister resigned, complaining that the assembly was obstructing new legislation. Later in the year the assembly was dissolved by decree.

Externally, the longstanding friction with Iran continued to pose the greatest threat to Bahrain's internal stability. The 1979 Iranian revolution brought new unease about possible future Iranian claims. In 1981 more than 70 Bahrainis were arrested after a plot to overthrow the Government, with alleged help from Iran, was discovered. Such plots were to continue to come to light throughout the decade and the one following, and there was repeated agitation from the Shia population to restore the National Assembly. When, in December 1994, a Muslim cleric, Ali Salman Ahmad Salman, was arrested for voicing these claims, there was widespread rioting throughout Bahrain, particularly in the Shia districts.

The Emir was compelled to promise to extend the powers of Bahrain's Consultative Council, but this did not appease the reformers. Riots continued into 1995, with a number of deaths.

Later that year, a report by Amnesty International concluded that as many as 1,500 demonstrators remained in detention. In all this, relations with Iran fluctuated between out-and-out hostility and the establishment of ambassadorial relations.

Deeply conservative by nature, Sheikh Isa regarded all change as being potentially for the worse and distrusted alien institutions such as parliaments and bureaucracies.

There were ten children of his marriage, in 1949, to his cousin, Hasa. His eldest son, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, succeeds him.


Sheikh Isa: steered his country skilfully between its neighbours

DENNIS VIOLLET

Dennis Viollet, former Manchester United footballer, died on March 6 at his home in Jacksonville, Florida, of cancer aged 65. He was born on September 20, 1933.

IT MAY seem anomalous to say that Dennis Viollet was past his peak when he set Manchester United's championship goalscoring record in 1959-60. But this was the opinion of the Welsh coach Jimmy Murphy, who took control of the club for some time after the Munich air crash of February 1958, in which Viollet was one of the lucky survivors. The Manchester United side was on its way back from a European Cup tie in Belgrade against Red Star, in which Viollet had scored a characteristically cool goal.

But Murphy's view was that, though Viollet did survive the crash and play on for years to come, he was never to be quite the same player again. This may go some way to explain why, to the great disappointment of his Manchester United fans, he won only two caps for the England international team, though these, perhaps ironically, came after the Munich air disaster.

One of them was gained in 1960, in Budapest, against Hungary. The other came in a somewhat meaningless qualifying match for the 1962 World Cup against Luxembourg. Viollet, like the other England forwards, made hay.

Dennis Viollet joined United as a teenager and quickly developed into an inside left whose pace, opportunism and strength compensated for the fact that he stood only 5ft 8ins. He made sporadic appearances for Manchester United until, despite its apparent marginality, he took part in what turned out to be a significant midweek friendly game at Kilmarnock in October 1953. Matt Busby, always ready to gamble on youth with his Busby Babes, that day preferred Viollet to the celebrated inside left Stan Pearson. United won 3-0 and Busby kept Viollet and two other young stars, Jackie Blanchflower and Duncan Edwards, in the team for the subsequent league game at Huddersfield.

Viollet appeared in the 1958 Cup Final at Wembley against Bolton Wanderers, even though, since the Munich crash, he had played only a couple of first team games. He won a league championship medal with United in 1956-57 and was a notable performer in their various challenges for the European Cup.

Indeed, when in 1956 they thrashed Anderlecht of Belgium 10-0 in Manchester, Viollet had three goals before half time and another in the second half.

In 1961, however, United somewhat unexpectedly let him go to Stoke City where he continued to the end of his career. In 291 games he had scored 178 goals for Manchester United; for Stoke he was to make another 182 appearances scoring 59 times.

Later, he coached Crewe Alexandra, Preston North End and, in the United States, the Washington Diplomats. Latterly he had lived in the United States.

He is survived by his wife and children.



Latest wills

Daniel Raymond **Massey**, the actor, of London SW18, left estate valued at £387,216 net.

Vice-Admiral Sir John **Cadell**, of Deal, Kent, left estate valued at £102,091 net.

The **Dowager Countess of Radnor**, of Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,080,853 net.

Sir Robert **McCrindle**, of Upminster, Essex, left estate valued at £477,258 net.

Ann **Cain**, of Chelsea, London SW3, left estate valued at £3,833,329 net.
She left £5,000 each to St Dunstan's, Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the Salvation Army; £3,000 each to RAF Benevolent Fund, Army Benevolent Fund, and King George's Fund for Sailors.

Thomas Andrew **Elton**, of London NW8, left estate valued at £2,002,856 net.
He left £12,000 to Dr French Memorial Home of Finchley, London N12.

John Michael **Hignett**, of Clipston, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £2,167,297 net.

Evelyn **Knight**, of London SW3, left estate valued at £2,066,774 net.

Ada Amanda **Rigby**, of London N20, left estate valued at £2,129,457 net.

Robert Foster **Barbour**, retired research chemist, of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, left estate valued at £1,008,468 net.

Joan **Dickinson**, of Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent, left estate valued at £1,668,581 net.

Henry Walter **Fairey**, of St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £1,100,953 net.

Louis **Ferrar**, of Newton Mearns, Glasgow, left estate valued at £1,153,614 net.
He left £20,000 each to Friends of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Weizmann Institute Foundation, and Tel Aviv University Trust; £10,000 each to Newark Lodge, Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, and Jewish Care Scotland; £2,000 to Glasgow Hebrew Burial Society.

Kathleen **Gomersall**, of Burley-in-Wharfedale, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,144,804 net.

Arnold Ralph **Goodwin**, of Lower Bullingham, Hereford, left estate valued at £1,668,106 net.

Anne Rhoda Elizabeth **Hoff**, of Winterbourne Houghton, Blandford Forum, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,292,032 net.

Margaret **Hudspeth**, of Hadston, Morpeth, Northumberland, left estate valued at £1,216,670 net.

Doris Louisa **Johnson**, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,043,728 net.

Elena Mirelle **Leeson**, of Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £223,578 net.
She left £20,000 to The International Fund for Animal Welfare.

George Duncan Nicholson **Milne**, of Surbiton, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,099,515 net.

Leonard Alfred **Palmer**, of Craig y Don, Llandudno, Conwy, left estate valued at £1,390,238 net.
He left £25,000 each to RAF Benevolent Fund, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and British Heart Foundation.

Suzanne Mary **Saxton**, of Midhurst, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,282,140 net.

Elizabeth **Steinfeld**, of Hampstead, London NW3, left estate valued at £1,304,571 net.

Laura Joan **Walker**, of Hungerford, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,969,972 net.

Anthony **Walker**, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,878,260 net.

Arthur Laurence **White**, of Staplegrove, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,471,475 net.

ON THIS DAY

March 8, 1917

Irish affairs had been prominent in Parliament since Gladstone's first Home Rule Bill in 1886. The third one became law in 1914, but would only come into effect at the end of the war. Growing militancy by Nationalists and Unionists killed it off.

HOME RULE: NO COERCION

WESTMINSTER, Wednesday

The Irish debate in the House of Commons tonight culminated in an organised "scene". Mr Redmond [a champion of Home Rule] regarded the Prime Minister's reply to the nationalist demand for an immediate settlement on the basis of Home Rule as so unsatisfactory that he declined to take any further part in the debate, and led his followers from the Chamber. MR LLOYD GEORGE'S declaration was to the effect that the Government were prepared to grant Home Rule now to that part of Ireland which clearly demanded it, but that they could not take any action to force Home Rule on the part to which it was repugnant . . .

Two hours had passed [after the start of the Irish debate] before the PRIME MINISTER intervened to state the policy of the Government. He opened on the note that a settlement which would be acceptable to the people of Ireland as a whole would be welcomed with delight by the rest of the United Kingdom.

"We must face facts," the Prime Minister insisted. The fundamental facts, in his judgment, were that centuries of ruthless and often brutal injustice had driven hatred of British rule into the very marrow of the Irish race, and that in the north-eastern part of Ireland the population was as hostile to Irish rule as the rest of the population was to British rule. These fundamental facts raised two questions. Were the people of this country prepared to confer self-government on those parts of Ireland which unmistakably demanded it? Were the people of this country prepared to force the population of the north-eastern corner to submit to government by a population with which they were completely out of sympathy? He answered the first question in the affirmative and the second in the negative.

The Nationalists became noisily impatient as the Prime Minister proceeded to define the attitude of the Government. He put the points more clearly in a second speech, and the effect of it can be stated here. The Government were prepared to grant Home Rule immediately to that part of Ireland that clearly demanded it. They could not take any action to force Home Rule on the part of Ireland to which it was repugnant . . . In order to make the standpoint of the Government clear, the Prime Minister moved an amendment welcoming any settlement which did not involve the coercion of any part of the Irish people. Although the Prime Minister's manner throughout was conciliatory, the Nationalists greeted the end of his speech with jeers.

MR ASQUITH followed and asked with all solemnity if a united effort could not be made to throw off the Irish burden. While fully recognizing the difficulties of the situation, he made a practical contribution to the debate. He declared that the only practicable course was to invoke the intervention of some outside and impartial authority and trust to it the task of adjustment as between all the interests and sentiments concerned . . .

NEWS

'Kitchen table' Toryism launched

■ In a striking shift of thinking, William Hague has ordered all members of his Shadow Cabinet to adopt a new political approach known as "kitchen table conservatism".
The leadership will focus on core issues known to be of central importance to the electorate and address those subjects in similarly direct language. Shadow Cabinet members have been told that they must stop attempting to defend the last Conservative Government........................Page 1

Stanley Kubrick dies, aged 70

■ Stanley Kubrick, the reclusive and obsessive film director behind *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *A Clockwork Orange*, died yesterday at his home in Hertfordshire, aged 70. A doctor was called to Childwickbury Manor, where Mr Kubrick lived with his wife Christiane........................Pages 1, 3

Balloon journey ends

The world's longest balloon journey came to an abrupt end yesterday when the all-British Cable & Wireless balloon team were forced to ditch into the ocean off the coast of Japan..............Page 1

Holiday bobby a hero

A British policeman on holiday in America became the hero of a New York crime drama at the weekend when he dodged a bullet to catch two bandits in central Manhattan..........................Page 1

Divorce meetings

Ministers are to go ahead with a shake-up of divorce laws to bring in controversial meetings for parting couples, after research showed the sessions can rescue thousands of marriages....Page 2

Feathers fly over bird

A rare Illiger macaw is at the centre of a custody row after being bought by a bogus company in a television "sting" that backfired on programme-makers.....Page 5

Magazine under fire

A magazine for women who write, which has received £70,000 of lottery funding, has been criticised by the female literati for its "unfortunate" title and outdated manifesto..........................Page 6

Paedophiles abroad

A growing number of British paedophiles are travelling to Eastern Europe to buy youngsters for the price of a burger................Page 7

Ashdown's last stand

Paddy Ashdown urged the Liberal Democrats to have no limit in their ambition for power as he set his party on election footing for the last time as leader.......Page 8

Nuclear secrets

The US is investigating charges that China stole nuclear secrets to fast track the development of its nuclear arsenal................Page 10

Khmer leader caught

Grandfather Mok, the last Khmer Rouge leader at large, was in custody in Phnom Penh amid indications that he will be put on trial as a scapegoat for the sins of the group..............Page 11

Colosseum unearthed

The Hollywood image of the Colosseum as a bare arena covered in the blood of beasts, gladiators and Christians is mistaken, according to a German and Italian archeologists....................Page 12

Skiiers stranded

At least 60,000 people spent the first day of their skiing holiday fuming in their cars on Saturday as they were *stranded for up to* nine hours in a traffic jam in the French Alps.....................Page 13

Bahrain ruler dies

Another Middle East nation has seen the transition of power from father to eldest son, this time in Bahrain, whose ruler, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, died over the weekend.....................Page 14

Headless lover may sue over 'outing'

The "headless man" at the centre of one of Britain's most sensational divorce scandals is threatening legal action against a biographer who intends to reveal his identity. Michael Thornton, who has been working on a biography of the late Duchess of Argyll for 13 years, has received more than a dozen letters from lawyers acting on behalf of the man........................Page 5



The North Circular in London was submerged under 25 feet of water yesterday after a 60-inch water main burst and flooded a 300-yard stretch between Harrow Rd and Hanger Lane. Police fear the bridge might collapse and do not expect the road to reopen for many days

Preview: John Thaw returns with the legal drama *Kavanagh QC* (ITV, 9pm) Review: The nation's general knowledge, or lack of, occupies Paul Hoggart......Pages 46, 47

Boring and simple

Mr Brown would be wise to play safe, even be dull, in tomorrow's Budget. He should confirm existing plans, rather than change them, and hope that his experiment in monetary policy will continue to pay dividends.....................Page 21

How to spend it

There is a new confidence among those using their money and skills for charity that is one of the great goods of the current age....Page 21

Slippery slopes

Trapped in traffic tailbacks, Alpine holidaymakers may mull over the wisdom of taking to the mountains on a peak weekend............Page 21

BUSINESS

EMI takes the biscuit: Eric Nicoli, chief executive of United Biscuits, is the surprise choice to succeed Sir Colin Southgate as executive chairman of EMI.....................Page 48

Hospitals targeted: Medical insurers are threatening to sue private hospital groups for the £100 million benefits of winning a VAT case if they fail to hand it over.....Page 48

Budget boost: The Stock Exchange is hoping that the Chancellor will *let companies recoup much of the* cost of a share flotation to help smaller companies regain access to capital..............................Page 48

Rover hopes: BMW has asked the Government for aid for its Longbridge plant, but there is no guarantee that a planned Rover car will be built in Birmingham........Page 48

FEATURES

New world: There has been a growing realisation that the welfare state cannot solve all ills. But people seem more inclined to embrace social problems as their own. Millionare Torquil Norman and heiress Sabrina Guinness are helping disadvantaged children......Page 15

FASHION

Lisa Armstrong: "Everywhere you looked in Milan, there was monstrous footwear. Ugly footwear is fine at high street level, but at £200 a throw, it's a tedious little piece of perversity"....................Pages 16, 17

LOTTERY NUMBERS

8, 32, 33, 37, 43, 47. Bonus: 45
Three winners shared Saturday night's jackpot of £8.3 million.

Visual art glory: The great benefactor Paul Mellon would have loved his beautifully refurbished Yale Centre for British Art, says Richard Cook...............................Page 18

John Higgins: "Orpheus may have to cross the River Styx and go through Hades to find Eurydice, *but that is no good reason for filling* Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* with Stygian gloom".........Page 18

Halfway up the heights: "The literalism is deadening, and like much else it ends up seeming merely half-hearted." Nigel Cluff reviews Malcolm Sutherland's *Wuthering Heights* in Leeds................Page 19

Pop: Nick Kelly reviews the Trash Can Sinatras and finds that what they lack in theatrical dynamics, the make up in songs.........Page 19

Football: Manchester United and Chelsea both had a man sent off as they fought to a goalless draw in the FA Cup quarter-finals at Old Trafford.......................Pages 25, 29

Athletics: Jamie Baulch and Ashia Hansen claimed gold medals at the seventh world indoor championships in Japan.....................Page 26

Rugby union: Teenager Jonathan Wilkinson was hailed as an England star of the future after a display of great composure in his country's hard-fought 27-15 victory over Ireland in Dublin..............Page 33

Motor racing: Ulsterman Eddie Irvine triumphed in the Australian *Grand Prix in Melbourne, his first* Formula One success after six years of trying...................Page 27

Rugby league: Martin Offiah of the London Broncos, whose father was shot dead in Nigeria last week, became the highest English try-scorer in history...............Page 35

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

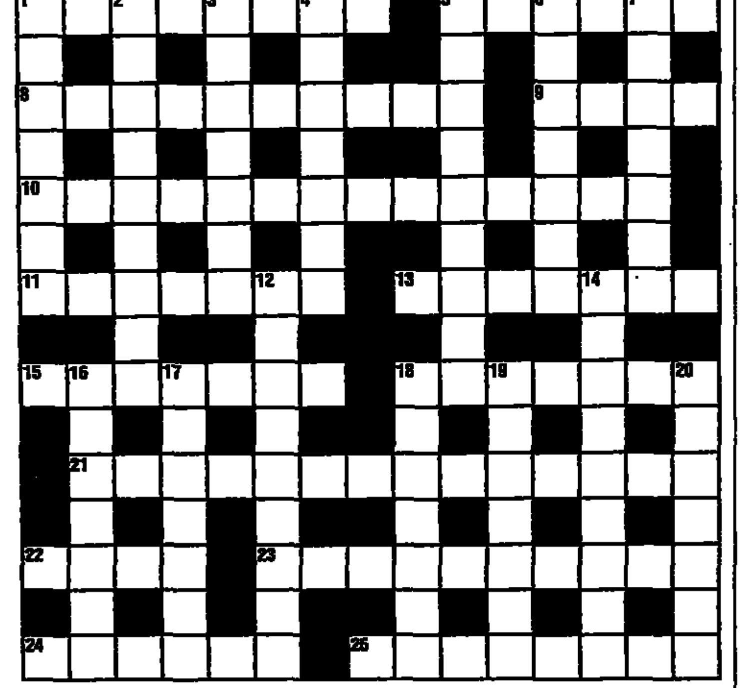
Fifty-one per cent, even of Labour voters, think Tony Blair should keep out of the Scottish election. He is seen as an Englishman, running an English Government. That sounds more like support for independence than for continued devolution inside the UK.........Page 20

PETER SHORE

What Britain and the Government need is not the launch of an expensive pre-referendum campaign, disguised as a purely technical National Changeover Plan, but a total rethink of our whole position on Europe..................................Page 20

ANNA BLUNDY

The community of sons and daughters of eminent Russians in London has become so large that Moscow gossip-columns are now full of stories from Knightsbridge....Page 20



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**
Towards the millennium: Simon Rattle celebrates the sounds of the Eighties

■ **LAW**
What you tell your lawyer is a secret. Or is it?

President Clinton has apologised to Italy for the disaster a year ago in which 20 people died when an American plane sheered through the wire of a cable car. The fact remains that the pilot was acquitted. The episode has revealed the patronising arrogance of the US and has led to demands in Italy for US and Nato bases to be closed down. This is not the America we love, and this shoddy and unacceptable verdict does not reflect the values that Nato was set up to defend.
La Repubblica, Rome

Stanley Kubrick, film director; Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, ruler of Bahrain..................Page 23

Concern over counting system for Euro poll; trade "victims" of the banana row; how to tie a tie; ITV's public service; Gulf bombing; police effectiveness; rail fares examined; Nigerian elections; Royal beef on bone; no alternative in labelling *laws*; public transport and the Dome..................................Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,045

ACROSS
1 Second thoughts about part of navy's weaponry (4,4).
5 Amount of money US university required for the highest degree (6).
8 Finest source of wines, say, for popular author (10).
9 A swan lacking space can be seen on this river (4).
10 Act in character? It's Lorna's personal obsession (2,4,3,5).
11 Muscle shown by church probing effects of drug abuse (7).
13 Pebbles one only found around end of beach (7).
15 Meat and food taken back in German city (7).
18 Expedition finds oil, naturally, going round South America (7).
21 Make a pledge before having *death-wish*? (5,4,5).
22 She takes very long time (4).
23 Threat reef represented from then on (10).
24 Female teacher abandons motorway? It's the pressure (6).
25 Aquatic plant propagated deep down (8).

DOWN
1 Educationalist wears smart clothing to work for press (7).
2 Absolute rule has place in religious belief (9).
3 Severe wind from South and East (7).
4 Cuts down the totality of invading plants (7).
5 Procrustes, so to speak, making one lie here (9).
6 Endless din upset fellow going over house (7).
7 Prohibited drug taken by sick girl (7).
12 They live on another location captured by airborne troops (9).
14 Binding agreement to rebuild gate near university (9).
16 Pistol, for example, is antique (7).
17 Told to wrap three-quarters of a *stone in rich fabric* (7).
18 Toast revolutionary English leader with port (7).
19 Like Keats's sweeter melodies – nearly a hundred arranged (7).
20 Came on stage and made a record (7).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,044 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.31 am
Sun sets: 5.52 pm
Moon sets: 9.22 am
Moon rises: -
Last quarter March 10
London 5.52 pm to 6.29 am
Bristol 6.02 pm to 6.39 am
Edinburgh 6.01 pm to 6.45 am
Manchester 5.59 pm to 6.39 am
Penzance 6.15 pm to 6.50 am



☐ **General:** eastern counties of England will be dull and mostly cloudy with light rain. Wales and western England will see a few sunny breaks, with occasional rain across the South West and South Wales. Eastern Scotland will have patchy drizzle and there will be sleet and snow in the highlands. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have the best of the day's sunshine.

☐ **London, SE, E, NE & Central S England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** *patchy light* rain and brief bright spells. Wind light, variable. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **W Midlands, N Wales, NW & Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** cloudy with drizzle and a few sunny breaks. Wind light, variable. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales:** cloudy with rain, occasional brighter intervals. Wind light, E. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with rain, turning to sleet and snow over the hills. Wind light, variable. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** sunny spells, *sharp showers, wintry on hills. Wind N, moderate*. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N Ireland and Republic of Ireland:** sunny spells, showers, some heavy. Wind N, moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** mostly cloudy, some rain, snow on northern hills on Wednesday.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	0.09	5	41	r	Kinloss	0.1	0.01	6	43	c
Anglesey	0.5	0.03	5	41	r	Leeds	-	0.41	5	41	r
Aspatria	0.1	0.05	6	43	r	Lerwick	5.8	0.06	6	43	sh
Aviemore	0.1	0.02	4	39	c	Leuchars	2.5	0.01	7	45	b
Belfast	4.6	-	7	45	b	Littlehampton	-	0.01	7	45	r
Birmingham	-	0.25	4	39	r	London	-	0.28	5	41	r
Bognor R	-	0.02	7	45	c	Lowestoft	-	0.20	4	39	r
Bournemth	2.5	-	9	48	b	Manchester	-	0.18	5	41	r
Bristol	-	0.03	8	46	r	Margate	-	0.15	5	41	r
Buxton	-	0.48	2	36	sl	Morecambe	-	0.06	6	43	r
Cardiff	X	0.01	9	48	b	Newcastle	-	0.77	5	41	r
Clacton	-	0.17	4	39	r	Newquay	7.6	0.03	8	46	b
Colwyn Bay	-	0.13	5	41	c	Norwich	-	0.35	5	41	r
Cromer	-	0.46	4	39	r	Oxford	-	0.11	5	41	r
Eastbourne	-	0.02	7	45	r	Penzance	10.0	0.01	11	52	s
Edinburgh	0.3	-	6	43	c	Poole	7.6	0.01	10	50	s
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.04	4	39	r	Prestatyn	-	0.06	5	41	du
Exmouth	7.8	0.01	9	48	s	Ross on Wye	-	0.04	6	43	r
Fishguard	1.2	0.04	5	41	sh	Saunton Sands	3.6	-	9	48	s
Folkestone	-	0.07	6	43	r	Scarborough	-	0.54	5	41	r
Glasgow	3.6	-	7	45	b	Shrewsbury	-	0.08	4	39	r
Guernsey	6.7	0.02	10	50	s	Southend	-	0.17	4	39	r
Hastings	-	0.03	6	43	r	Southport	X	0.02	5	41	r
Hayling I.	0.1	0.01	8	46	sh	Stornoway	1.2	0.02	5	41	sh
Herne Bay	-	0.18	5	41	r	Swanage	4.5	-	8	46	b
Hove	-	0.01	7	45	du	Tenby	5.1	0.06	9	48	sh
Hunstanton	-	0.28	5	41	r	Tiree	2.4	0.01	5	41	sh
Isle of Man	2.7	0.01	8	46	r	Torquay	6.0	-	11	52	s
Isle of Wight	X	-	8	46	c	Weymouth	6.8	0.01	9	48	s
Jersey	8.1	0.04	10	50	h						

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	12	54	c	Cologne	9	48	c	Madrid	8	46	f	Rome	14	57	f
Akrotiri	21	70	s	C'phagn	4	39	c	Majorca	15	59	f	R'ndsway	6	43	s
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Corfu	15	59	r	Malaga	16	61	f	Salzburg	3	37	c
Algiers	12	54	f	Dublin	6	43	f	Malta	16	61	s	S Frisco	9	48	f
Amst'dm	5	41	d	Dubrovnik	13	55	f	Melbourne	19	66	f	Santiago	25	77	s
Athens	17	63	s	Faro	13	55	c	Mexico C	21	70	s	Seoul	9	48	s
Bahrain	22	72	f	Florence	12	54	t	Miami	23	73	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Frankfurt	8	46	f	Milan	11	52	f	Stockholm	1	32	d
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	15	59	f	Montreal	-9	16	s	Strasb'rg	6	43	c
Barcelona	14	57	f	Geneva	5	41	c	Moscow	1	34	r	Sydney	26	79	s
Beijing	7	45	s	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Munich	5	41	c	Tangier	15	59	f
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	-2	28	c	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tel Aviv	23	73	s
Belgrade	15	59	f	Hong K	26	79	s	Naples	15	59	f	Tenerife	19	66	c
Berlin	6	43	c	Innsbruck	5	41	c	N Delhi	27	81	s	Tokyo	17	63	s
Bermuda	19	66	f	Istanbul	18	64	s	N York	X			Toronto	-6	21	f
Biarritz	6	43	c	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	14	57	s	Tunis	18	64	f
Bordeaux	9	48	c	Jo'burg	29	84	s	Oslo	-1	30	sn	Valencia	15	59	s
Brussels	5	41	r	L Palmas	20	68	f	Paris	7	45	c	Vanc'ver	6	43	f
Budapest	13	55	r	Le Tquet	4	39	f	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	9	48	f
B Aires	21	70	t	Lisbon	11	52	f	Prague	5	41	f	Vienna	8	46	r
Cairo	25	77	s	Locarno	9	48	f	Reykjavik	-4	25	f	Warsaw	14	57	s
Cape Tn	25	77	c	L Angeles	15	59	s	Rhodes	20	68	s	Wash'ton	7	45	f
Chicago	3	37	f	Luxembg	3	37	c	Rio de J	26	79	f	Wellngton	22	72	X
Ch'church	21	70	X	Luxor	29	84	s	Riyadh	22	72	s	Zurich	3	37	r

Temperatures at midday local time on Friday X = not available

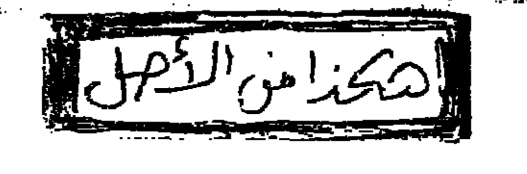
Changes to the chart below from noon: lows A and B will lose their identity; low C runs northeast across England and Wales and starts to fill; low D moves eastwards and fills; high K declines; high L stays stationary and builds slightly

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:50	3.7	17:08	3.7	Liverpool	2:27	8.4	14:44	8.3
Avonmouth	10:29	11.5	22:43	11.1	London Bridge	5:17	6.7	17:38	6.8
Belfast	2:28	3.1	14:54	3.2	Lowestoft	0:47	2.4	13:14	2.2
Cardiff	10:15	10.7	22:29	10.3	Margate	3:18	4.4	15:39	4.3
Devonport	9:00	5.0	21:22	4.8	Milford Haven	9:38	6.1	21:56	5.8
Dover	2:16	6.2	14:31	5.9	Newquay	8:33	6.1	20:52	5.9
Dublin	2:57	3.6	15:30	3.6	Oban	8:51	3.4	21:22	3.3
Falmouth	8:31	4.8	20:53	4.6	Penzance	8:00	4.9	20:19	4.7
Greenock	4:00	3.0	16:00	3.2	Portland	10:09	1.5	22:22	1.4
Harwich	3:04	3.6	15:24	3.5	Portsmouth	2:41	4.2	14:52	4.1
Holyhead	1:38	4.9	13:54	4.9	Shoreham	2:26	5.6	14:28	5.5
Hull (Albert D)	9:45	7.9	22:00	7.8	Southampton	2:13	4.1	14:30	4.0
Ilfracombe	9:18	8.0	21:35	7.7	Swansea	9:40	11.0	22:00	10.8
King's Lynn	9:51	5.6	21:57	5.8	Tees	7:17	9.3	19:35	9.4
Leith	6:15	4.8	18:38	4.8	Walton-On-Naze	3:02	3.9	15:21	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres.



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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

Golden glow for British athletics
Page 26

Irvine savours sweet taste of success
Page 27

England turn on the power

TIMES SPORT 16 PAGES

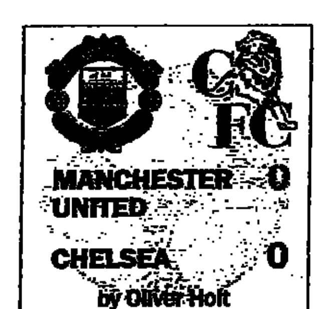
MONDAY MARCH 8 1999

MANAGERS PAY HEAVY PRICE FOR TRIFLING WITH FA CUP



Nil-nil desperandum: the dismissals of Di Matteo, left, and Scholes, right, added to the cost of the FA Cup stalemate at Old Trafford yesterday for the likes of Vialli

Semi-detached rivals left to rue unwanted extension



MANCHESTER UNITED 0

CHELSEA 0

by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

THROUGH gritted teeth and laboured smiles, Alex Ferguson and Gianluca Vialli paid lip-service to the importance of living to fight another day in the FA Cup. When they could hide their disappointment no longer, though, their thoughts wandered to the only team who can still deprive them of a title that they hold more dear.

By their scowls yesterday, it was clear that they were thinking about Arsène Wenger cracking open a bottle of fizzy water and toasting his old sparring partner, fixture congestion. This was the day when the FA Cup exacted its revenge on Manchester United and Chelsea.

In the past, they have managed to get away with their callous treatment of the famous old competition, riding along on their pragmatism and their shadow sides, grabbing late winners or losing gallantly, but always, always, avoiding that worst of all fates, the Scylla and Charybdis of modern football: the replay.

Ferguson, in particular, has often joked about his horror of not deciding a cup-tie at the first attempt, of wild plans to send Peter Schmeichel up with the forwards for the last five minutes if the match was in the icy grip of deadlock. The Manchester United manager stopped short of that yesterday, but, in desperation, he did bring some of the heroes of the win against Internazionale off the bench for the last 20 minutes of this quarter-final.

By then, it was too late. The replay will take place at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday, which means that United have to sacrifice their scheduled FA Carling Premiership match against Liverpool at Anfield and Chelsea their game against Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium.

Worse, both sides had a player sent off for two rather innocuous offences, which means that Roberto Di Matteo and Paul Scholes will miss a game in the championship run-in.

"We have got fewer games to play than Chelsea and Arsenal," Ferguson said. "If anything, it is worse for Chelsea than us, because they will find that their games start to come thick and fast now. Arsenal are the ones who will really benefit from what happened today. They are probably the favourites to win the league now."

Vialli agreed. "Both teams could have done without another match and the winner at the end of the day is probably Arsenal, because now is a very decisive moment of the season and the fewer matches you play, the better," the Chelsea manager said.

That the FA Cup has become something of a frippery was evident when Ferguson left out Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole, the forwards who have been terrifying defences from Filbert Street to the Nou Camp, and played Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as the focal point of an unfamiliar formation that was as close as United have come to dispensing with their trusted 4-4-2. Somehow, it all seemed rather half-hearted and conservative. The match itself was untidy and devoid of fluency.

Phil Neville was used, to good effect, to man-mark Gianfranco Zola and stifle what remained of Chelsea's creativity, deprived as they were of Frank Leboeuf, Celestine Babayaro, Dennis Wise and Vialli himself. The result was a rather tetchy impasse, a game smothered by caution when it should have been liberated by the abandon of its lowly place in the scheme of things.

It was typical of the occasion that just when it seemed it might be cut loose from its bonds shortly before half-time, when Gary Neville had glanced a fine diving header against the face of Ed de Goey's right-hand post, it was killed stone dead by the sending-off of Di Matteo for an ill-judged tackle on Scholes that compounded his earlier mistimed challenge on Beckham.

It is hard to criticise Paul Durkin, the referee, because, taken individually, both were bookable offences. There was no malice in either challenge and common sense should have allowed the Italian to stay on the pitch. In a refereeing culture where the officials are punished for such diversions into sentiment, though, Durkin had little option but to administer the letter of the law.

The same applied to the dismissal of Scholes four minutes from the end for a similarly innocuous tackle on Goldbaek. By then, the game was all but over anyway. Chelsea, who managed just one shot on target in the game, a first-half curler from Morris that was saved easily by Schmeichel, had decided that a draw was the best they could achieve with ten men and defended so well that they earned it.

In its pursuit, De Goey and Marcel Desailly were outstanding. The Dutch goalkeeper made his first important save in the fifth minute, hurling himself to his right to parry a stinging drive by Keane and then doing just enough to distract Scholes as he ran on to Beckham's delightful lob over the Chelsea defence six minutes later. Beckham should have scored himself five minutes after half-time, but he lifted his shot high over the bar from ten yards after Scholes pulled the ball back from the byline.

De Goey came to the rescue again in the 58th minute, when Solskjaer's first-time ball freed Scholes. De Goey managed to block his shot and Beckham snatched at the rebound and pulled it wide.

Midway through the half, Scholes, whom Ferguson singled out for his profligacy, put a shot into the side-netting at full stretch and, 13 minutes from the end, De Goey frustrated United one last time, turning Scholes's touch over the bar after Yorke's attempt at an overhead kick had cannoned off Le Saux.

Le Saux, by the way, behaved impeccably in the face of the all too predictable baiting from the crowd. Spare a thought, too, for Beckham, who was also taunted. He did not fling out his elbows or lose his temper, but who among the outraged chat-show and phone-in hosts and the new football intelligentsia will take up his cause?

MANCHESTER UNITED (3-4-3): P Schmeichel — H Berg, P Neville (sub: D Yorke, 72min), W Brown — G Neville, R Keane, P Scholes, D Irwin — D Beckham, O G Solskjaer (sub: E Sheringham, 82), J Blomqvist (sub: A Cole, 82).

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — A Ferrer, M Desailly, B Lambourde, G Le Saux — D Petrescu (sub: E Newton, 46), J Morris, R Di Matteo, B Goldbaek — T A Flo (sub: M Forssell, 60), G Zola (sub: A Myers, 79).

Referee: P Durkin



SEMI-FINALS
Newcastle v Barnsley or Tottenham
Man Utd or Chelsea v Arsenal
☐ Matches to be played at neutral venues on April 11

Dennis Viollet dies at 65

Viollet: Busby Babe

Dennis Viollet, a member of the renowned Manchester United "Busby Babes" team of the Fifties, died at his home in the United States on Saturday after a long illness. He was 65.

Viollet, a prolific goalscorer, came through the nursery system that produced Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton.

Report, page 1
Obituary, page 23

SAILING

Prada crew fail to take advantage in dress rehearsal

By Edward Gorman
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IN AN exciting final day to the *Road to America's Cup* Reggata on Waitemata Harbour in Auckland yesterday, the Italian *Prada* crew came within a whisker of defeating *Team New Zealand*, led by Russell Coutts.

After eliminating both Dawn Riley's *America True* and Bertrand Pace's *Le Defi* in the opening round-robins, *Prada* had hoped to complete a nine-race final against the New Zealanders, who will defend the America's Cup proper in Auckland next year.

However, in the event light and unstable winds reduced the contest to just three races. In the first, Coutts established a 16sec lead at the first mark and was never headed. In the second, *Prada* led from the start and finished more than two minutes ahead.

After a very aggressive pre-start, in what turned out to be the deciding heat, the boats went up opposite sides of the first beat. At the first cross, *Prada* was a boat-length behind when the genoa halyard on *Team New Zealand* parted, sending the huge headsail tumbling on to the foredeck. Coutt's crew recovered brilliantly and quickly re-hoisted the sail, but *Prada's* advantage was short-lived as they suffered the very same gear failure minutes later and rounded the mark 20sec behind.

Coutts held on until 300 metres from the line, when the spinnaker on *Team New Zealand* exploded. Again, as the Italian boat crept up, the Kiwis were quick to repair the damage and they managed to finish just one metre ahead at the gun.

The end of the week's racing in Auckland came amid reports that the Spirit of Britain syndicate that had been hoping to send a British boat to the America's Cup for the first time in 12 years has now given up hope of finding the necessary sponsorship. After optimistic suggestions ten days ago that £1.5 million had been found to enable one yacht to be built, there now appear to be problems securing the finance and building has not started.

In the Around Alone Race, J. P. Mouligne, of France, in *Cray Valley*, was on course to complete his third back-to-back leg win in Class 2 as he headed towards the finish at Punte del Este. Mike Garside, of Great Britain, in *Magellan Alpha*, was in second place, 115 miles behind.

David Powell sees British athletes lay claim to indoor greatness

Medals delivered right on time

LIKE Japanese trains — never late — Great Britain's gold medal express performed to the highest standards of reliability here in the seventh world indoor championships.

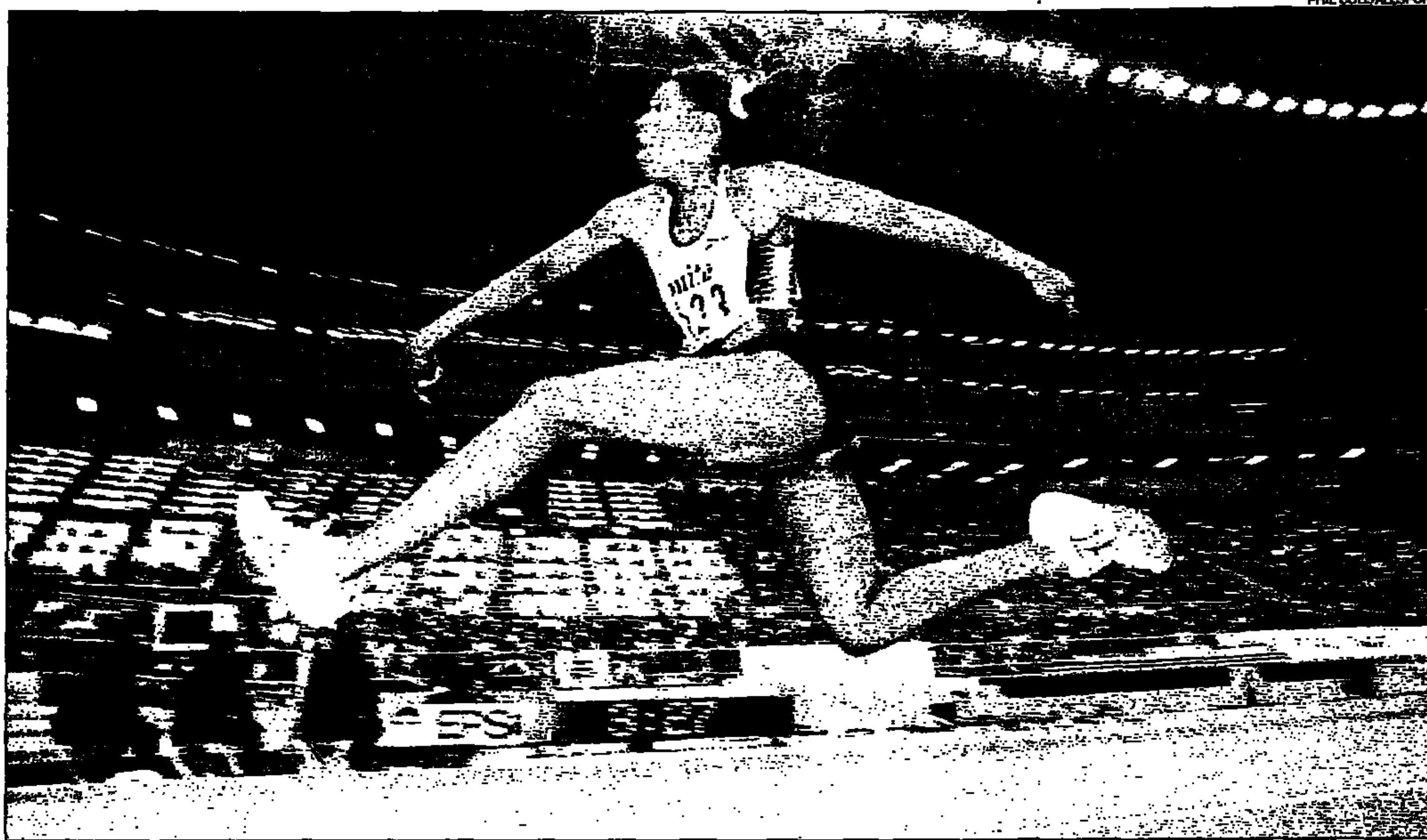
In the closing session yesterday, Ashia Hansen and Jamie Baulch achieved victories that elevated the British team to a place among the top four nations, after Colin Jackson's win on the opening day. The golden glow, which accompanied Britain's athletes through unprecedented success at the European championships in Budapest last summer, shines on.

One more gold and Britain would have finished top. Four countries collected three each, but the United States, Romania and Germany occupied the leading places, scoring better than Britain on the minor medals. Nevertheless, it was the most that Britain's team of few stars could have hoped for. Only Jackson, of Britain's seven individual champions from Budapest, was here.

This was not only the best gold-medal haul by Britain in the history of these championships, but, in one go, Jackson, Baulch and Hansen equalled the total number of victories from the previous six. Jason Gardener was left admonishing himself for failing to win the gold that would have clinched Britain's place at the top of the world, but, by this morning, he should reflect that he was being harsh on himself.

Gardener was third in the 60 metres, breaking Linford Christie's European record with 6.46sec. He chased home the two cannonballs from Kansas City, Maurice Greene, the world record-holder, and Tim Harden.

"I fell out my blocks," Gardener complained. "I had a good chance of winning and I am disappointed." Greene clocked 6.42sec, Harden 6.43sec.


PHIL COLE/ALLSPORT

Hansen, the world indoor record-holder, strides confidently down the runway on her way to achieving victory in the triple jump

Hansen won the triple jump with a towering performance, Baulch the 400 metres with assertive front-running. What a sequence for Wales: gold for Jackson on Friday, victory over France in the rugby on Saturday, Baulch's triumph on Sunday.

Ashia, queen of Asia. Only six months ago, Hansen won *the Commonwealth Games* title in Kuala Lumpur and now, on the same continent, she has won again. Hansen is the world indoor record-holder and she wasted no time in stamping her authority, firm evidence that the heel injury that kept her out of Budapest is no longer restricting her.

Hansen's first jump was her winning one — 15.02 metres. Only once before, when she set her world record of 15.16 metres to win the European title last winter, had Hansen cleared 15 metres indoors.

"I wanted to put pressure on the others early," she said. Iva *Prandzheva*, of Bulgaria, and Sarka Kasparkova, of the Czech Republic, responded to the challenge, both setting national records, but both fell marginally short.

Prandzheva was second with 14.94 metres, Kasparkova third with 14.87 metres. When Kasparkova failed to surpass Hansen with her last effort, the Briton, jumping last, was assured of the gold. Instead of celebrating instantly, she maintained her composure to try for the world record on her final attempt. It was a wasted effort, although bringing a bottle of champagne out from England was not. This was her third *successive championship victory* — worthy of a toast.

Hansen believes that there is more in the bottle, as far as her performances go. "I was the world indoor champion, but I still wanted a bigger distance," Hansen said. "That is why I kept my concentration after Kasparkova had jumped. I will never he happy with the distances. I shall always be craving for more."

Christie may have lost a European record, but he has gained a world champion. Baulch, coached by Christie, won the title that eluded him two years ago. Coming off the bend towards the end of the first lap, Baulch had to surge to lead at the bell.

"I got to the bell first, which is crucial indoors," Baulch said. "If you do not dominate by that point, your chance of success is limited." He took Milton Campbell, of the United States, the runner-up, by surprise. "Jamie seemed to come out of nowhere," Campbell said.

Down the back straight, on the second lap, Baulch eased up, determined not to repeat his mistake of the last world indoor championships when, giving too much too soon, he finished second.

Christie's role has been critical. "My mental power is so much better, thanks to Linford," Baulch said. "I am not scared any more." Christie also coached the belief into Darren Campbell to become the European 100 metres champion last summer. Any more to come? As surely as Japanese trains run to time.

Golden Gebrselassie upsets the apple cart

From David Powell
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN MAEBASHI, JAPAN

HAILE GEBRSELASSIE said, jokingly, last week — or perhaps he was half-serious beneath his beaming smile — that, if he won the 1,500 metres here, he might go for the 800 metres next time. Where will the boundaries finally be drawn for this extraordinary Ethiopian? He intends to run also a marathon with world record intent one day.

Unleashing finishing speed that put the specialists to shame, Gebrselassie added the 1,500 metres title yesterday to the 3,000 gold medal he had won on Friday. Yet this is an athlete who dominates the 10,000 metres, winning the past three world titles and the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Pity poor Laban Rotich, of Kenya, who finished second. For once, Hicham El Guerrouj, who had dominated the 1,500 metres of late, was out of the way. Then, like a fox in a chicken pen, Gebrselassie turns up where he is not supposed to be. Trailing Rotich off the final bend, Gebrselassie sprinted by to win in 3min 33.77sec.

"One gold medal in a championship is ordinary," Gebrselassie said, *grinning*. "I *wanted to be different*." Only as different as Gabriela Szabo this time. Szabo, from Romania, completed the same double, winning the 3,000 metres in 8min 36.42sec yesterday, having taken the 1,500 metres title on Saturday.

Szabo may have some way to go to match Gebrselassie's achievements, but she is building an impressive portfolio. She is the 5,000 metres world champion outdoors and broke Liz McColgan's world indoor record for the distance last month.

The two world records from the three-day programme came in the last two events. Adding to the closing drama was a last-leap win by Ivan Pedroso, from Cuba, in the long jump. Russia set new world figures of 3min 24.25sec for the women's 4 by 400 metres relay and the United States followed suit in the men's race with 3min 2.83sec.

Poland set a European record of 3min 3.01sec for second place, with Great Britain third in a national record of 3min 3.20sec. Allyn Condon came off worse in a physical encounter with Piotr Haczek, from Poland, on the first leg, otherwise Jamie Baulch may have been contesting gold on the last.

Solomon Wariso, Britain's second-stage runner, was more than satisfied. "A new British record behind a world record and a European record — how can you complain in company like that?," he said.

Pedroso was going for a fourth successive title, previously achieved only by Mikhail Shchennikov, the Russian 5,000 metres walker. He led for five rounds, but, in the sixth and last, Yago Lamela, from Spain, leapt in front with 8.56 metres. Pedroso was having none of it. He responded with 8.62 metres.

First to hug him was Javier Sotomayor, his compatriot, who also won his fourth title, though not in succession. Sotomayor's high jump clearance of 2.36 metres beat Vyacheslav Voronin, from Russia, on countback.

In the 800 metres, reputation counted for nothing. Wilson Kipketer, the men's world record-holder and defending champion, was beaten by Johan Botha, from South Africa. In the women's race, Maria Mutola, failing in her bid for a fourth successive title, was passed on the final straight by Ludmila Formanova, of the Czech Republic.

BASKETBALL

Finch fury as greedy Sharks fail to show their teeth

By Nicholas Harling

MORE often a man ruffled by the performances of the referees than by his own team, Chris Finch exhibited a shift in behavioural patterns on Saturday when he vented his anger on the Sheffield Sharks. "In all my time as coach, I have never been so embarrassed by my team's performance," Finch declared after his squad had suffered a costly 84-77 defeat by Greater London Leopards.

Twice in previous Budweiser League encounters this season, the Sharks have proved to be too strong for the Leopards, who also lost to them in the National Cup final. Yet, when the chance came to confirm their supremacy over the champions and retain the league's joint-leadership with Manchester Giants, the Sharks slipped up badly.

"It was a microcosm of everything we have done wrong this season," Finch continued, knowing that, for the first time, his squad is no longer in control of its own destiny. "We were greedy and mentally we weren't up for it." His anger will be tempered, no doubt, if the Leopards repeat their victory against the Giants in London on Thursday.

The Leopards will do well then not to start as slowly as they did against the Sharks, who succeeded with seven of their first nine three-point attempts. Three were converted by Todd Cauthorn. Those shots simply swished through the hoop, but, with only four subsequent successes from 27 shots, the Sharks struggled to stay ahead.

Their 18-9 lead had been reduced to 55-53 at half-time, thanks largely to the efforts of Peter Deppisch, whose 28 points included five three-pointers. Tim Moore, who supported Deppisch in a 10-0 blast midway through the third quarter, finished with 27 points and 12 rebounds. Another dozen rebounds came from Robert Youngblood.

"We wanted to make the second half like a heavyweight boxing match and see who would be left standing at the end," Billy Mimms, the Leopards coach, said.

The Giants kept up their title pursuit by overcoming Newcastle Eagles, 94-92. Tony Dorsey sank the two decisive free throws for the Giants, taking his tally to 21, one more than Chris Fite's total for the Eagles.

Some way behind the top two are Thames Valley Tigers, whose win over Milton Keynes Lions saw the expulsion of Andre Alleyne, the visiting coach.

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** *Sheffield* Steelers and Nottingham Panthers will contest the BBC Challenge Cup final in two weeks. The Steelers beat Manchester Storm, the Sekonda Superleague champions, 3-1 in the second leg of their semi-final yesterday, winning 8-1 on aggregate. Nottingham Panthers drew at home with Cardiff Devils 2-2 yesterday, but qualified for the final on a 6-5 aggregate.

■ **SKIING:** Hermann Maier won the World Cup super-giant slalom race at Lillehammer yesterday. The Olympic and world champion clocked 1min 30.70sec as Austria took first, second and third places, with Stefan Eberharter second in 1min 31.17sec and Andreas Schifferer third in 1min 31.29sec. Maier's win — his fourth this season — not only left him certain of winning the World Cup super-giant slalom title but also saw him overhaul Kjetil-Andre Aamodt and Lasse Kjus, both of Norway, at the head of the overall standings.

■ **ICE SKATING:** Tatyana Malinina, of Uzbekistan, was the surprise winner of the women's title at the International Skating Union grand prix final. Maria Butryskaya, the double European champion, of Russia, was second. Alexei Yagudin, of Russia, won the men's event, with Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov, his compatriots, winning in the ice dance event.

■ **BOWLS:** *Colchester won* the national inter-club championship for the first time in Exeter on Saturday. They lifted the trophy after beating Croydon 97-67 in the final.

CRICKET: WEST INDIES' STANDARDS CONTINUE TO FALL IN FIRST TEST

Lara receives dressing-down from rampant Australia

From Pat Gibson in Port of Spain

THEY were serving, with typically spicy Trinidadian sauce, "Lazarus lunch with Viagra dessert" at the Queen's Park Oval here yesterday, but it was going to take more than that to raise West Indies from the depths to which they have sunk.

If Australia had thought that England sometimes provided feeble opposition during the recent Ashes tour, it was best not to inquire what they felt about the efforts of the motley crew at Brian Lara's disposal at the critical stages of this first Test.

There have been a couple of occasions when West Indies have appeared capable of competing with the side that knocked them off their perch four years ago and have since gone on to claim their title of the best Test team in the world.

Scoreboard........................40

On the first day, they had them in trouble at 118 for five, *but, with Courtney Walsh and* Curtly Ambrose showing their advancing years, they could not complete the job and a last-wicket stand of 66 between Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath lifted them to a total of 269.

On the second day, they had the spectators dancing in the stands as Lara, showing a *tantalising glimpse of what an* inspiring captain he could be, and the newly capped Dave Joseph took the initiative from Australia with a rousing third-wicket stand of 88, but they let them down cruelly with a batting collapse that surpassed even England's spectacular standards.

In 12 overs, they contrived to lose their last seven wickets for 18 runs to the pace of McGrath and the leg spin of Stuart MacGill. The last five wickets fell without a run being scored from the bat, the only four runs added coming from a ball by MacGill that went for four byes.

In the circumstances, it is hard not to feel some sympathy for the unfortunate Lara. He does make life difficult for himself by his apparent inability to conform to the standards required of a West Indies captain, which manifests itself in all kinds of little ways.

Here, for instance, members of his own Queen's Park Club, obeying the strict dress code in the pavilion with their smart sports shirts and slacks, shook their heads sadly as their fallen idol padded off to *the dining room in bare feet*.

On the field, however, there does not seem to be much that he can do about the crisis. The bowling by their old lights is looking increasingly mundane and it is not going to improve until the venerable Walsh or Ambrose, or both, are put out to grass.

As for the batting, Joseph, a belligerent Antiguan, has made a decent start to his Test career, but, as long as Shivnarine Chanderpaul is injured and Carl Hooper unavailable, Lara is the only player of real class. When one legendary West Indian, who had better remain nameless, was asked if some of the batsmen in the present squad were over the hill, he said: "No, they never *even got up the hill*."

By the third day, the gulf between these two teams seemed to be insurmountable. It took McGrath only one over to wrap up West Indies' first innings, his sixth ball sending Mervyn Dillon's off stump cartwheeling. He had made his highest Test score of 39 on Saturday and now he completed his twelfth five-wicket haul in Tests, his fourth against West Indies.

The once vibrant crowd was *down to half its size of the first* two days and, if the theory that the absentees were all in church was correct, their *prayers were answered when* showers twice held up proceedings.

Even they provided only temporary respite, however, for the sagging West Indies. Walsh did have Matthew Elliott, driving recklessly, caught at second slip for a duck and Dillon had Jason Langer caught behind for 24, but Michael Slater, reaching 50 off 120 balls, and Mark Waugh built remorselessly on Australia's advantage.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www-uk.cricket.org
TELEVISION: Sky Sports 2, 2pm (live)

Flintoff provides touch of class

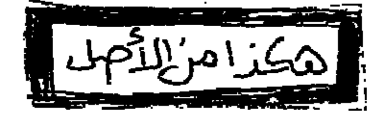
NEWLANDS (fourth day of five): UCB President's XI, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 298 runs to beat England A

ENGLAND A should complete their second victory on South African soil today, although they would have expected to require fewer than the seven wickets still needed on the final day against the President's XI (Thrasy Petropoulos writes).

Set 440 to win, the President's XI lost three early wickets, including the crucial one of Boeta Dippennar, leg-before to the last ball before tea. However, England A failed to make an impression in the final session, with Martin van Jaarsveld and Finley Brooker rarely tested in an unbroken stand of 86.

With the pitch taking considerable turn, that partnership is likely to prove of nuisance value only. Steve Harmison, who removed both openers, should also prove awkward on the fifth-day surface.

With a lead of 293 and six wickets in hand overnight, Andrew Flintoff provided the impetus again. Resuming on 21 not out, he hit four sixes and seven fours in his 109-ball innings of 80, taking his first-class aggregate for the tour to 542 runs.



MARK HORSBURGH



A triumphant Irvine shares his moment of glory with the Ferrari mechanics after crossing the line for victory in the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne yesterday, his first in six years

Irvine laps up luck and overdue taste of glory

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER jumped impatiently into his hire car for the getaway while two Ferrari mechanics pushed a pile of tyres between the knot of people gathered long after the rest of Formula One had set off for the airport. At the centre of the group of hangers-on and leftovers from the corporate entertaining tents, Eddie Irvine, dressed in a bright red Ferrari sweatshirt, sipped from a can of beer and slipped his arm around the next blonde who wanted her picture taken with today's grand prix hero. When you have waited six years and 82 races for victory, you can afford to savour it for a while.

The Ulsterman, who has carved out a career as the best No 2 driver in Formula One, discovered yesterday how to become the No 1. Luck was, powerfully, on his side in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix. At the start of the day, you would have been hard-pressed to find anyone willing to bet on Irvine, such was the speed of the McLarens of Mika Hakkinen, in pole position, and David Coulthard, while Schumacher sat ominously in third place on the grid — except, that is, for a red-haired, freckled youth, on holiday from his native Kerry, who had put Aus $20 on his countryman.

He ignored Irvine's dismal practice days and a qualifying performance that put him only sixth on the grid, but perhaps he understood more about the alarming vagaries of Formula One than the rest of the 120,000 crowd. When he wakes up after spending his $300 winnings in the row of bars that crowd Fitzroy Street, outside the Albert Park circuit, he will probably contemplate the extraordinary circumstances that helped Irvine on his way to victory.

The Stewart-Fords of Rubens Barrichello and Johnny Herbert, for example, which looked so competitive, both burst into flames as they waited for the start. Barrichello, fourth on the grid, took the spare car, but had to start from the pitlane, while Herbert was forced to miss out completely.

The restart was a calamity for Schumacher, who could not find first gear and was forced to start from the back of grid, apparently handing the race to the McLaren-Mercedes, which showed speed well beyond the pack all weekend. However, the German's mishap and the burning Stewarts were merely precursors to a race of epic mishap. Damon Hill could not make it beyond the third turn in his Jordan, spinning off after being tapped from behind by a Prost-Peugeot, while Jean Alesi's Sauber did not even get off the grid.

Irvine, meanwhile, made an aggressive start, pulling up to third place through the gap left by Schumacher and Barrichello. Schumacher, characteristically, carved his way through the field, but how could even he catch Hakkinen? The world champion, in a dominant car and protected by the patrolling Coulthard in second place, looked invincible.

There was not long to find out, as the action came thick and fast after Jacques Villeneuve, in his new British American Racing car, crashed out spectacularly on lap No 13. He was unhurt, but his stationary car and debris on the track forced stewards to send out the safety car, bunching up the field and destroying the gap from Hakkinen to Irvine of 18.1sec and to Schumacher, then in seventh, of 37sec.

At that moment, Coulthard discovered that his transmission was jammed in sixth gear. Disconsolately, he pulled into the garage.

The defining moment was to come when the safety car was called out a second time after Alex Zanardi's first grand prix for Williams came to an abrupt end in a safety barrier. Hakkinen seemed to have been caught napping by the trailing Irvine as soon as the safety car was recalled, but a steady stream passing the McLaren signalled that the world champion was in serious trouble.

He had suffered a throttle linkage failure and did no more than trundle round until lap No 21, when he realised that his car was not going to cure itself. The Finn allowed himself a rueful smile as he followed his team-mate into the garage.

By now, Irvine was streaking clear of Heinz-Harald Frentzen's Jordan and facing only one serious threat — from Schumacher, his team-mate. He had closed to within 2sec of the leading group, knowing that there would be no battle with the race leader and expecting no less than victory — Irvine is under contract to give way to him and would have had to pull over as soon as he saw Schumacher in his wing mirrors.

This time, though, Schumacher was to suffer the ill luck that ended his title aspirations in the final grand prix of last year in Japan. On lap 26, his right rear tyre blew out, shattering bodywork and forcing him into the pits. He never recovered the lap lost while mechanics replaced tyres and a shattered nose cone.

Irvine's progress to the chequered flag was serene, though the carnage behind him continued, with a total of 14 cars dropping out to leave a top six that included Frentzen, in his first race for Jordan, Barrichello, after an astonishing drive that included a stop for a 10sec penalty, and the rookie, Pedro de la Rosa, in his first drive for Arrows.

Not that Irvine looked back. His team-mate was a lap behind in eighth place, too far to invoke any contractual obligations that could rob the Ulsterman of his few hours of glory.

Ecclestone bid, page 48

GRAND PRIX 99 RESULTS FROM MELBOURNE

RESULT: 1, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1hr 35min 1.659sec; 2, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Jordan) at 1.027sec; 3, R Schumacher (Ger, Williams) 7.012; 4, G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 33.418; 5 R Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 54.696; 6, P De La Rosa (Sp, Arrows) 1min 24.317; 7, T Takagi (Japan, Arrows) 1:26.288; 8, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1 lap.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1, Irvine 10pts; 2, Frentzen 6; 3, R Schumacher 4; 4, Fisichella 3; 5, Barrichello 2; 6, De La Rosa 1. Constructors: 1, Ferrari 10; 2, Jordan 6; 3, Williams 4; 4, Benetton 3; 5, Stewart 2; 6, Arrows 1.

QUALIFYING TIMES: 1, M Hakkinen 1min 30.462sec; 2, D Coulthard 1:30.946; 3, M Schumacher 1:31.781; 4, R Barrichello 1:32.148; 5, H-H Frentzen 1:32.276; 6, E Irvine 1:32.289; 7, G Fisichella 1:32.540; 8, R Schumacher 1:32.691; 9, D Hill 1:32.695; 10, A Wurz 1:32.789; 11, J Villeneuve 1:32.888; 12, J Trulli 1:32.971; 13, J Herbert 1:32.991; 14, P Diniz 1:33.374; 15, A Zanardi 1:33.549; 16, J Alesi 1:33.910; 17, T Takagi 1:34.182; 18, P De La Rosa 1:34.244; 19, R Zonta 1:34.412; 20, O Panis 1:35.068; 21, L Badoer 1:35.316; 22, M Gene 1:37.013.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: April 11: Brazilian (São Paulo). May 2: San Marino (Imola). May 16: Monaco (Monte Carlo). May 30: Spanish (Barcelona). June 13: Canadian (Montreal). June 27: French (Magny-Cours). July 11: British (Silverstone). July 25: Austrian (Zeltwig). Aug 1: German (Hockenheim). Aug 15: Hungarian (Budapest). Aug 29: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps). Sept 12: Italian (Monza). Sept 26: European (Nürburgring). Oct 17: Malaysian (Kuala Lumpur). Oct 31: Japanese (Suzuka)

NEXT RACE: [illegible]

HOW THE DRIVERS CAME TO GRIEF

DRIVER	COMPLETED LAPS	
Johnny Herbert (GB, Stewart)	0	overheated
Damon Hill (GB, Jordan)	0	spun off
Jean Alesi (Fr, Sauber)	0	gearbox failure
David Coulthard (GB, McLaren)	13	hydraulic failure
Jacques Villeneuve (Can, BAR)	13	crashed
Alex Zanardi (It, Williams)	20	crashed
Mika Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren)	21	throttle linkage failure
Olivier Panis (Fr, Prost)	23	locked wheelnut
Marc Gene (Sp, Minardi)	25	spun off
Jarno Trulli (It, Prost)	25	spun off
Pedro Diniz (Br, Sauber)	27	gearbox failure
Alexander Wurz (Austria, Benetton)	28	spun off
Luca Badoer (It, Minardi)	42	gearbox failure
Ricardo Zonta (Br, BAR)	48	overheated

STEVE HOLLAND



Melbourne's skyline dwarfs Irvine's Ferrari

Family man moves up a gear

Kevin Eason believes there is still life in the vibrant Ulsterman yet

ALL along the dimly-lit street, only one sitting-room was alive with the sound of laughter and celebration in the early hours of Sunday morning. Edmund and Kathleen Irvine usually travel the world to watch their son competing for the most glamorous team in the most glamorous sport on earth. This time, they decided they would stay at home in their little house near Bangor, Northern Ireland.

Perhaps, like the whole of Formula One, they believed that they could afford to miss the Australian Grand Prix because nobody gave their son a chance of winning. But the telephone call that woke them in the early hours confirmed what they hoped would happen eventually: that Eddie Irvine was a winner.

Irvine is Formula One's paradox. He is the maverick who has conformed to the strictest contract in Formula One, forbidding him to outperform his team-mate; he is the man-about-town devoted to his family, particularly his parents and sister, Sonia, who works as his physiotherapist, and he is the driver who, until yesterday, scorned his record of never having won a grand prix.

But he has reaped the reward of diligence beyond the call of a duty that has been both a curse and a blessing on his career. There can be no doubt that Irvine, 33, is a talented driver, yet he has bound himself into a deal at Ferrari that made it well-nigh impossible for him to consider himself to be a potential winner.

RICK RYCROFT



Irvine savours the moment on the podium

Irvine ploughed his way through the ranks, his ebullient style attracting admirers until the equally maverick Eddie Jordan brought him to Formula One six years ago. His impact was immediate and spectacular — in his first race, he was lapped by Ayrton Senna, only to retake the Brazilian. The three-times world champion was so incensed that he marched down the pitlane and punched Irvine on the nose.

But Irvine has that effect on much of Formula One. They like him or hate him for his outspoken views, blunt language and apparent arrogance. For Irvine, the move to Ferrari, as No 2 to Michael Schumacher, has been a two-edged sword, for he has the machinery to compete, but his contract states he must give way to the German. Against that, he drives for the most famous team in the world, for which he is handsomely rewarded with about £3 million a year.

It has been the impossible choice: give up Ferrari and the fabulous salary as No 2 or move to another team with perhaps a worse chance of winning. His job for three years has been to ride shotgun for Schumacher, blocking McLarens and clearing the path for his team-mate. Yet Schumacher has failed to win the title in spite of his efforts and Irvine has become increasingly frustrated, realising that he is good enough to win, just not allowed to, on the way to the end of his career.

Before the season started, the signs of restlessness were there as he contemplated another season as Schumacher's bridesmaid, no longer satisfied by the salary, the helicopter and yacht or the adulation of Ferrari's devoted fans. The zero in the wins column of his record was increasingly irritating and a matter for correction. It was just a question of how against two superior McLarens and his team leader.

A month ago, he said: "I just have to make sure I am there when my time comes and maybe I could win a race or two for Ferrari. It is the one gap in my record and I don't want to finish my career in Formula One not having won a race. Last year, I was waiting for three drivers to fall off the circuit before I had a chance of winning."

Yesterday, it finally happened and all three did clear a path for a maiden victory. The question now is whether Irvine can grasp his victory and improve on it.

SNOOKER

Williams enters a new hall of fame

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

MARK WILLIAMS joined the select band of players to have won three world-ranking events in a season when he defeated Alan McManus 9-7 in a gripping final of the Thailand Masters at the Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, last night.

Williams has blossomed into a formidable opponent of late. Successful at the Irish Open in December, when he beat McManus 9-4, and the Welsh Open a month later, the gangling 23-year-old, from Ebbw Vale, emulated Steve Davis, Stephen Hendry and John Higgins.

The £50,000 first prize carried Williams's total earnings this season to £273,325, while the manner in which he overcame high-quality opponents in his closing three matches served to underline the credentials of a realistic challenger for the world championship next month.

Williams, whose already healthy level of confidence was bolstered by convincing victories over Hendry, in the quarter-finals, and John Parrott, in the semi-finals, made his presence felt by establishing a 3-1 lead with breaks of 87, 64 and 106. McManus fashioned a last red-to-pink clearance to steal the fifth frame and had the opportunity to force a re-spotted black in the sixth, but, having cleared yellow to pink, he overcut a routine black off its spot.

Williams is recognised universally as the most dangerous single-ball potter in the game and this proved to be invaluable when, with the cue ball awkwardly tucked under the balk cushion, he sweetly stroked in the black from distance. A break of 72 enabled Williams to move 5-2 ahead and he also won a scrappy, error-strewn eighth frame to enter the concluding session in a position of considerable strength.

On the resumption, however, McManus won the first frame of the evening on the black with a clearance of 35 and stubbornly delayed the presentation of the trophy by grittily rallying from 8-3 to 8-7 adrift, without scoring heavily. By this time, Williams was understandably suffering from frayed nerves. Leading 46-0 in the sixteenth frame, McManus was on course to necessitate a decider, but he missed a red to a middle pocket and Williams eventually sank a spectacular green to launch his clearance to the pink.

"My mind was gone towards the end," Williams said. "The more frames Alan won, the more pressure I was under and my hands were shaking. I'm not going to start comparing myself with the likes of Davis and Hendry, but it's good company to keep."

Despite mounting such a valliant rearguard action, it all added up to another near-miss for McManus, who has been the bridesmaid so often. He has now advanced to the semi-finals or further in 35 professional tournaments but has prevailed in only four of the 20 finals that he has contested.

Williams will be hoping to reproduce such sustained excellence at the China International, the seventh ranking event of nine this season, which gets underway at the JC Manderine Hotel, Shanghai, today.

RESULTS FROM BANGKOK

SEMI-FINALS

M Williams (Wales) bt J Parrott (Eng) 6-2
A McManus (Scot) bt D Morgan (Wales) 6-1

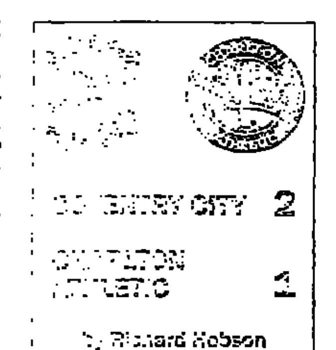
FINAL

Williams bt McManus 9-7
(Frame scores; Williams first: 87-0, 114-2, 0-94, 64-10, 53-62, 77-63, 72-17, 68-24, 57-69, 70-43, 60-12, 12-65, 22-62, 53-73, 2-62, 78-46)

FA Carling Premiership: Charlton prove fall guys after Coventry overcome Aloisi's dismissal

Strachan puts stress on wider picture

THE street hawkers around Highfield Road on Saturday enjoyed a brisk trade in T-shirts commemorating the 4-1 victory against Aston Villa. Orders for a full-length video of the "historic" game were being taken inside the club shop.



COVENTRY CITY 2

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1

by Richard Hobson

Parochial supremacy matters to Coventry City supporters, but, on a national scale, this second successive win carried far greater importance.

While Gordon Strachan, the manager, was correct in suggesting that the significance of the result will become apparent only at the end of the season, it must be looked upon already as a shattering blow for Charlton Athletic. At 1-0 up, playing against ten men, they needed little more than composure and concentration to extend an unbeaten run to five matches. At crucial moments, they lacked both.

"This is not the end of the world," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said in a gloomy tone that conveyed the opposite. Chances such as this do not materialise every week and Charlton, though possessing certain strengths and some underestimated players, are not such a good side that they can afford to squander them.

Strachan admitted that when John Aloisi was dismissed for striking Danny Mills in an argument over a throw-in in the 55th minute, he would have settled simply for an equaliser to the goal scored by Andy Hunt two minutes earlier.

Yet, after the excellent Noel Whelan struck with the calmest finish of the match in the 66th minute, only one team carried the conviction of potential winners.

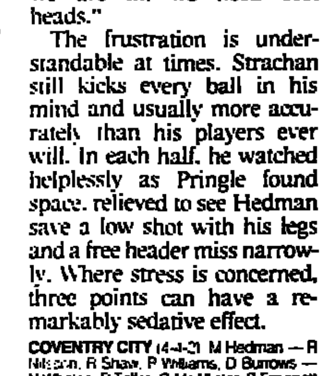
After his two goals against Villa, Aloisi could claim to be the match-winner again, although he seemed more interested in protesting his innocence afterwards.

There is a subtle difference between pulling players behind the ball and practical de[illegible] Five Charlton players [illegible] to Whelan when he [illegible] a clever pass from [illegible] but none was close [illegible] to prevent the shot.

[illegible] same was true in the [illegible] minute when Solvedt [illegible] in the penalty [illegible] via a deflection [illegible] even though Charlton [illegible] brought everybody back [illegible] corner.

[illegible] had set in by that [illegible] Curbishley said. "Everything [illegible] went haywire for us [illegible] man was sent off. It [illegible] lesser."

"There is little time to learn. [illegible] at times. Charlton [illegible] display a naivety that [illegible] unpunished in the Nationwide League. As Barnsley [illegible] team spirit and [illegible] of a nation are not enough to survive at the higher level.



Strachan salute

Coventry's prospects are a good deal better. In the longer term, the partnership between Whelan and Huckerby has the potential to flourish. They are used to scrapping for their status in the closing stages, so much so that Bryan Richardson, the chairman, compared the final weeks of last season, when they enjoyed rare mid-table comfort, with a six-month holiday in the Bahamas.

Strachan arched his back and twice saluted the skies on the final whistle before hugging each of the Coventry players that walked across his path towards the tunnel. Where Curbishley had confined himself to the dugout, Strachan ranted and raged by the touchline like a man demented, often to nobody in particular. In a week in which Joe Kinnear suffered a heart attack, Strachan's bulging eyes and jerking movements became an uncomfortable sight.

For what purpose? According to McAllister, any wisdom in the manager's words goes unheard. "On the pitch, you do not really notice it," he said. "You just see a little red head bobbing up and down. In the dressing-room, he is much calmer and, with the situation we are in, we need cool heads."

The frustration is understandable at times. Strachan still kicks every ball in his mind and usually more accurately than his players ever will. In each half, he watched helplessly as Pringle found space, relieved to see Hedman save a low shot with his legs and a free header miss narrowly. Where stress is concerned, three points can have a remarkably sedative effect.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Nilsson, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows — N Whelan, P Telfer, G McAllister, S Froggatt — D Huckerby (sub: T E Solvedt, 75min), J Aloisi

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-5-2): S Royce — D Mills, S Brown, C Tiler — J Robinson (sub: A Barness, 70), M Kinsella, K Jones, N Redfearn (sub: J Barnes, 64), C Powell — M Pringle, A Hunt

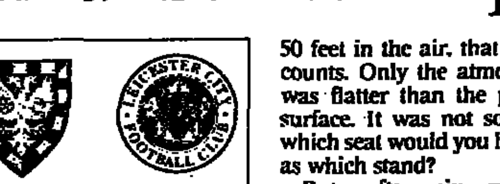
Referee: J Winter



TONY MELVILLE

Guppy, of Leicester City, celebrates after scoring his side's winning goal

Forgotten fossils dug from Selhurst swamp



WIMBLEDON 0

LEICESTER CITY 1

by Keith Pike

ONLY in the dark days BC (Before Carling) did football used to be like this, apparently. That was until the game's image-makers set out on their mission to convince the world that every fixture, bar none, is a minor classic played out at a pristine stadium packed with deliriously happy consumers; before supporters were brainwashed into living more in hype than expectation. A match as bad as this simply could not happen, could it? Well, it has.

This was a game of one goal that stood — and a spectacular effort it was, admittedly — plus one that did not and one header against the bar. It was an afternoon dripping with endeavour but an event otherwise excruciatingly devoid of drama or occasion or skill or excitement, of technique or tension, controversy or colour, of incident, passion or hope. Live and exclusive? You could have tied it up in ribbons and offered it with two years' free parts and labour and it would still have stunk the place out.

Absolutely none of which bothered Martin O'Neill and Leicester City one bit. They had stumbled upon football's version of *The Land That Time Forgot*, taken on the Wimbledon dinosaurs with a matching version of archaic, lump-it-anywhere football and escaped with three points and a first FA Carling Premiership win since Boxing Day. For them, the sheer awfulness of it all was soon forgotten.

There were excuses. The Selhurst Park pitch is a shocker (just where *do* Crystal Palace spend all their money?) although, as most of this game was played with the ball 50 feet in the air, that hardly counts. Only the atmosphere was flatter than the playing surface. It was not so much which seat would you like, sir, as which stand?

But, after six minutes, Perry's back pass and Sullivan's sliced clearance led to Steve Guppy's ferocious 25-yard shot into the top corner — game over, although Walsh headed against the woodwork and Euell had an equaliser disallowed for offside. The match did not deserve a goal, never mind one so well struck as that by Guppy, whose finish and performance were the day's only redeeming features.

At least the post-match chat was harmonious. Guppy, who missed Leicester's last visit to Wembley, promised that they would play better in the Worthington Cup final in a fortnight and O'Neill expressed his respect and sympathy for Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, who is in hospital after suffering a heart attack. Finally, David Kemp, Kinnear's deputy, put dismay over the match into context with concern over Kinnear's health. "I don't want to make excuses, but major incidents like that put football into perspective," he said.

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, B Thatcher, A Kimble — J Euell, A Roberts, R Earle — E Ekoku (sub: J Hartson, 56min), M Hughes (sub: C Hughes, 75), M Gayle

LEICESTER CITY (3-1-4-2): K Keller (sub: P Arphexad, 46) — M Elliott, G Taggart, S Walsh — P Kaamark — R Savage, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — I Marshall, A Cottee

Referee: R Harris

Hiley steps in to keep Southampton on course



SOUTHAMPTON 1

WEST HAM UNITED 0

by Alyson Rudd

IS YOUR glass half-full or half-empty, Mr Jones? The Southampton manager has had much explaining to do this season, a season in which many expected his club to cast off the tag of relegation candidates and instead push for mid-table comfort. On Saturday, David Jones pointed out that a long sequence of injuries to important players had prevented his team from mounting a sustained challenge for a place in the cosy zone. "We're chopping and changing every day, every game," he said.

Right now, that has to be a reason why Southampton will stay up. Which of the other relegation-threatened clubs has a host of talented players crouched in the wings? Suddenly, the malady has become the magic cure. David Hirst and John Beresford, both high-profile signings that were cursed with serious injuries, are close to full fitness and Jason Dodd, Egil Ostenstad and Ken Monkou are preparing to return after short-term problems.

If you add to that the gradual recovery of Matthew Le Tissier, it seems inevitable that come judgment day — when, on May 16, Everton visit The Dell — Southampton will wave goodbye to the 1998-99 season with magnificent flourish and, who knows, condemn Everton into the bargain.

Le Tissier has been in and out of the side like some sort of society wit who cannot be bothered to offer more than a knock-knock joke. He is not quite back to his Oscar Wilde best, yet he came close against West Ham United and if he manages only to maintain his present level of match-fitness, his team will trouble anyone. Fortunately for Southampton, there are few big names left on the guest list.

Only the visit of Arsenal in a month looks obviously troublesome and, if Jones's side win their other remaining home fixtures, they would be well-placed to wriggle out of bother again.

Southampton are also able to play in a relaxed and confident manner that belies their league position. In the first half, they swept through midfield, with Le Tissier and Hughes linking up with the sort of panache that most supporters had hoped for, but, perhaps, had assumed would never be.

Underlying it all was the role of Chris Marsden. The former Birmingham City midfield player was given a rough ride by the fans whenever he dared to emulate Le Tissier, but his diligence was crucial. He was first to every loose ball and mopped up so many of the visitors' ambitious but failed attacks that he made West Ham's central midfield look lazy and petulant.

Harry Redknapp's team perform too insubstantially away from home to win a Uefa Cup place. The defence needed, it seemed, to concede an early goal in order to rouse itself. Redknapp called Ferdinand's touch from Kachloul's long-range strike "a wicked deflection", but the England defender was slow to react to what was a fairly weak drive.

Thereafter, Ferdinand regained his composure, but with the West Ham front line unable to put the simplest of shots on target, it was too late — even though there were 79 minutes of the match left.

Towards the end, West Ham piled on the pressure, but they lacked the touch of heroism that a team with problems can summon up more easily. Sinclair's first good strike was saved well, but not held by Jones, and Di Canio sprang forward to bundle in what looked to be a certain equaliser. Hiley ran with the Italian and, just as the ball was about to cross the line, the full back found the momentum to clear from an impossible angle. It may prove to be a defining moment, but only one of many as Southampton wheel out more heroes just in the nick of time.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): P Jones — S Hiley, C Lundekvam, F Benali, P Colleter — M Oakley, C Marsden, H Kachloul — M Le Tissier (sub: S Ripley, 86min) — M Hughes, J Beattie

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): S Hislop — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, N Ruddock — S Lomas, F Lampard, M-V Foe (sub: P Kitson, 72), M Keller — E Berkovic — P Di Canio, T Sinclair

Referee: D Gallagher



Le Tissier: recovery

Edmundo is free from animal magnetism

Rob Hughes discovers why Brazil's striker is not so keen to go home

OF ALL the world's footballers, who act as if celebrity absolves them from responsibility, Edmundo, the Brazilian, takes the biscuit. He did not play for Fiorentina in their crucial Italian Serie A match against Parma yesterday because of injury: but if the Brazilian law authorities have their way, he may never play top-class football again.

He is wanted on an extradition order after being convicted, in his absence, of causing the death of three people by manslaughter in Rio de Janeiro, those who died being victims of his speeding at the wheel of his car. Curiously, Edmundo alienated the supporters and players of his Italian club just a month ago when he preferred carnival in Rio to his duty to play for a team that had already lost, through a knee injury, Gabriel Batistuta, its other main striker. Then, he did not want to be anywhere but Rio; now, his lawyers are working to oppose those who would have him there, inside a cell for the four-year jail sentence that he is due.

Edmundo is known as "The Animal" because he would fight team-mates and opponents, would quarrel with anyone and once notoriously picked a fight on a beach with a drug pusher.

At the World Cup last summer, Edmundo, who will be 28 in April, created a more understandable commotion in the dressing-room before the final between Brazil and France. He had been ready to play when, less than an hour before kick-off, Ronaldo turned up from hospital to claim his place. Edmundo, his fury uncontained, said such things to Mario Zagallo, the Brazil coach, that he has been banned from playing for his country again.

Edmundo was hoping to escape Fiorentina at the end of this season for a lucrative return to his first club, Vasco da Gama. Now, he may not be in such haste.



Wanted: Edmundo

Also in Italy on licence is the Portugal international, Sergio Campolo. Before playing for Perugia, also against Parma last October, he tested positive for marijuana. He was suspended for six months, but, over the weekend, his punishment was reduced to two months, so that he is available for selection next Sunday. "He [Campolo] co-operated with the authorities and admitted *indulging during a period of personal crisis*," the Italian football federation said.

In Holland, Bobby Robson is also earning sympathy. He took over PSV Eindhoven in the summer, a club denuded of half its playing staff, including Jaap Stam, sold to Manchester United. Last Friday, Robson signed the goalkeeper PSV need in Ivica Kralj, the Yugoslavia international. On Saturday, playing away to Roda JC Kerkrade, the third-placed team in the Dutch league, Robson's improving side won 3-1. They are going for Europe.

So, too, are Lazio. Sven Goran Eriksson, their coach, has spent money as if it was going out of fashion, but he dismissed speculation at the weekend that Emmanuel Petit will be his next recruit.

Overseas results, page 30

Diamonds fail to sparkle

Hayes 2
Rushden and Diamonds.....1

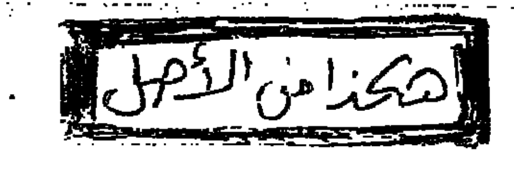
BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE jubilant scenes, the photograph of the triumphant team taken in front of the stand and a crowd of 1,302, the biggest at Church Road this season, underlined that beating Rushden and Diamonds is special for their fellow Nationwide Conference clubs.

Rushden led 1-0 at half-time, after Russell Meara had dropped a cross in the thirteenth minute and Lee Flynn had put through his own net in the subsequent scramble, but goals from set-pieces by Chris Sparks and Nathan Bunce wrested the advantage for Hayes.

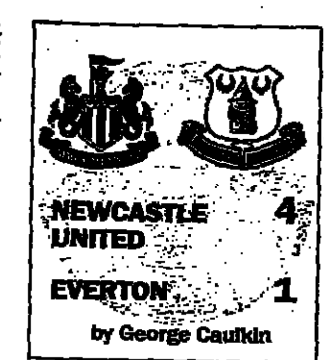
"I was delighted to avenge the 5-0 defeat up there," Terry Brown, the Hayes manager, said. For Brian Talbot, the Rushden head coach, the damage was limited by Cheltenham Town also dropping points. "We've got 13 games left and that's 39 points," he said. "Whether we're good enough to win the league, we will find out on May 1."

HAYES (3-5-2): R Meara — N Bunce, J Goodliffe, C Sparks — A Watts, D Wilkinson, N Roddis (sub: B Moore, 41min), E Asselman, L Flynn — M Randall, L Charles.
RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS (3-5-2): M Smith — J Rodwell, D Bradshaw, R Warburton (sub: G Whyte, 86) — J Brady, M McElhatton, G Butterworth, M Cooper (sub: A Foster, 67), P Underwood (sub: J Hamsher, 81) — C Heggs, D Collins.
Referee: S Tomlin.



FA Cup: Vibrant Newcastle leave Gullit one step away from Wembley final

Ketsbaia makes rueful Everton pay



by George Caulkin

MOMENTUM is the hardest thing to gain in football and the easiest to lose. With a mistimed pass or careless lunge, the efforts of a club can quickly be forsaken, a comeback forgotten, a recovery shelved. For Everton, the moment that their season became wholly trained to avoiding relegation arrived with the dreadful clarity of a deflected shot and the horror of a needless free kick.

By straining to reach a speculative effort from Temuri Ketsbaia, Marco Materazzi unwittingly initiated Newcastle United's first goal, diverting the course of the ball with significant effect. By felling Alan Shearer on the fringes of the penalty area, Don Hutchison provoked a second. Two-one down and with Ruud Gullit's stilted revival escalating, Everton retreated to familiar, sapping territory.

While there was much more to come, Hutchison's intervention definitively altered the course of the game. Where, for gaping intervals at the beginning of each half, Everton had dictated its pace and shape, the impetus was now lost.



Sunderland march on 31
Rangers reach last four 31
Results and tables 30

Three Newcastle goals in the space of 20 minutes spoke of a dominance that they only latterly earned.

Suddenly, they are beginning to resemble a team. In Shay Given, Steve Howey, Dietmar Hamann and Shearer, Newcastle possess a backbone finally delivering the weight that it promises. The disharmony evident in the days around Christmas has been dispelled by positive results and now, where before they seemed flimsy and unimportant, their squad players are capable of injecting vigour.

The redoubtable Ketsbaia, the former Georgia international, whose future on Tyneside is far from certain, was their hero yesterday. If he remains in the team until the end of the season, he will still fall some way short of figuring in 75 per cent of Newcastle's matches — the minimum required for the renewal of his work permit — and yet he played with a fierce, indelible hunger.

"I would like him to stay, of course," Gullit, the Newcastle manager, said, "but there is good competition for places now and Ketsbaia, because of the new regime, is showing his best form." His first goal may have been blessed with a healthy slice of good fortune, but the same could not be said for either his second or Newcastle's fourth, which he created for his side's official new captain, Shearer.

Walter Smith, an empty, haunted figure afterwards, insisted that Newcastle were flattered by the scoreline and, in a sense, the Everton manager was right. For the first 15 minutes of both halves, Everton were worthy combatants, but they crumbled badly.

As the rain teemed down from a sky as leaden as the stretch of muck that barely passed muster as a pitch — two inspections eventually permitting the tie to proceed — Everton's players, showered and changed, trudged along the fringes of St James' Park to their coach. It was a poignant end to a vibrant afternoon, coming in stark comparison to the first little teaser which arrived with the team-sheets.

Since signing from Croatia Zagreb last month, the introduction of Silvio Maric to English football has waited on the vagaries of a work permit, international clearance and the postponement of a reserve team match, although, after a trip to the races, a paint-balling excursion and the grand tour of Tyneside's finest fashion houses, his acclimatisation was already fairly complete.

All that remained was to exchange the black and white shirt that Maric had been sporting while awaiting the completion of his £3.65 million transfer for the real thing and, perhaps a touch surprisingly, that happened yesterday. The surface was too treacherous, Gullit had said, a lack of match fitness palpable, yet there he was jogging on to the field, taking his place on the left side of midfield.

Though Hamann had been the first to threaten with a speculative 20-yard punt that dipped markedly above the crossbar, Newcastle were sluggish in leaving the blocks. There were some pretty touches in the central portion of the field, particularly from Maric, but, for long periods, the swirling, miserable conditions clearly favoured Everton's pragmatic tendencies.

The first goal by Ketsbaia altered that, draining Everton of control and self-confidence until the whistle for half-time cleared the distraction. From a flurry of quick passes involving Maric and Shearer, Ketsbaia emerged with the ball on the fringes of the penalty area. At that stage, a shot had appeared to be the least obvious option, but the frame of Materazzi, hurled towards the danger, shaped glory from ignominy.

It stopped the game in its tracks. Half-time brought a renewal of efforts and, from Everton, an influential tactical change. Don Hutchison, back from suspension, was pushed forward alongside Cadamarteri and Jeffers and the complexion changed. Hutchison nicked the ball from Steve Howey, flicked it forward and, from a considerable distance, David Unsworth left Shay Given sprawling. Within another five minutes, Newcastle were ahead once more.

From Hutchison's rudimentary foul, Thomas Myhre, the goalkeeper, could only parry Hamann's shot into the path of Materazzi. The Italian centre half could no little other than watch the ball spin from his leg as George Georgiadis, a substitute, turned it home.

In the 72nd minute, Georgiadis found Ketsbaia with a square pass along the perimeter of the area. He stepped outside Unsworth and shot beyond Myhre and, eight minutes from time, Shearer converted a move he had begun. A combination of one-touch passes culminated with a low, firm shot that struck right at the heart of Everton's season.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — W Barton, S Howey, N Dabizas, D Domi — N Solano, D Hamann, R Lee, S Maric (sub: G Georgiadis, 54min) — A Shearer, T Ketsbaia.
EVERTON (4-4-2): T Myhre — D Weir, D Watson, M Materazzi, J O'Kane — A Grant, D Hutchison, D Unsworth, N Barmby — D Cadamarteri (sub: J Oster, 73), F Jeffers (sub: I Bakayoko, 73).
Referee: G Barber



Georgiadis, second left, of Newcastle United, is mobbed by team-mates, including Ketsbaia, right, after scoring his side's second goal yesterday

Ginola's spectre haunts Tyneside feast

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY are beginning to scent some of the flamboyance of former years on Tyneside, but the FA Cup semi-final draw yesterday, a mish-mash of ifs and maybes, held out the prospect of two of the most celebrated remnants of the good times coming back to haunt them.

If Tottenham Hotspur beat Barnsley next Tuesday, in a quarter-final delayed by the wintry Yorkshire weather, then David Ginola and Les Ferdinand will be two of the men standing in the way of Ruud Gullit and his revitalised Newcastle United as they attempt to return to the Cup Final for the second year running.

Newcastle barged Everton aside 4-1 yesterday to join the holders, Arsenal, as the only teams through to the semi-finals. It is still possible that the sides who met in the final last season will contest it again this year.

This time, Newcastle would provide Arsène Wenger's team with more of a test, but George Graham, the Tottenham manager, will be savouring already the prospect of leading his team out against his former charges from Highbury in what would be Spurs' second Wembley final this season.

"If we are going to win the competition," Alan Shearer, the Newcastle forward who scored the last of his team's goals yesterday, said, "we are going to have to beat the best teams somewhere along the way. It will be a top-drawer semi-final."

Newcastle's route to a re-run of the final last year still looks easier than that of Arsenal. Through to the semi-finals courtesy of Kanu's late winner against Derby County on Saturday, they will have to vanquish either Chelsea or Manchester United to reach Wembley.

Chelsea held United to a goalless draw at Old Trafford yesterday and will now be the favourites to advance to meet their London rivals for a semi-final that may be played at Wembley if two London teams are contesting it.

Chelsea victories in the replay on Wednesday night and over Arsenal would also raise the possibility of Gullit leading Newcastle out against the club that dismissed him so unceremoniously last year.

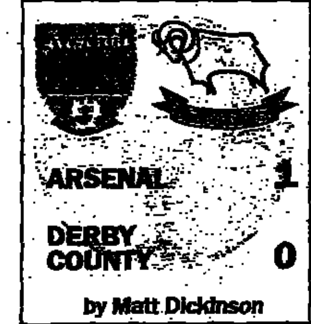
Despite the callow way that many of the top teams now treat the FA Cup, the fact remains that all three of the leading title contenders are still pressing for the Double.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said: "We would have preferred not to have to replay, but we are still only two kicks away from Wembley."

SEMI-FINALS

Newcastle Utd v Barnsley or Tottenham Hotspur
Man Utd or Chelsea v Arsenal
☐ Matches to be played on neutral venues on April 11

Plain old Kanu quickly makes a name for himself



by Matt Dickinson

THE doubts over his health and confidence dissipate by the week and, as if to mark his rejuvenation, the goalscoring hero on Saturday has even consigned his bothersome Christian name to his troubled past. From now on, the Arsenal No 25 wishes to be known only as Kanu. The tongue-tripping Nwankwo has been left behind.

So, one hopes, have all his problems, with the long-legged Nigerian striding towards fulfilment at last — a hasty judgment, perhaps, after just a handful of performances for Arsenal and only his first goal, but one that is founded on the knowledge that this is a proven winner, with a European Cup medal as evidence.

It does not take long to spot a footballer of talent, particularly amid the blood and thunder of a typically combative FA Cup-tie, and Kanu caught the eye from the moment that he entered the fray against Derby County, tiptoeing through the flying tackles with a grace and guile that should not be possible with a basketball player's physique.

The wonder is that more clubs were not willing to gamble on him when Internazionale decided that his heart problems had made him such a risk. Arsène Wenger, who had been mesmerised by him at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, took the plunge and how the Italians must have regretted letting him go when they were so ill-served against Manchester United on Wednesday by Djorkaeff and Baggio.

They needed a player of courage and intelligence and those were the skills that Kanu brought to bear decisively for Arsenal when he was brought on after 65 minutes. The holders had been on top almost from the start, but they were beginning to wonder whether it was to be one of those days. Bergkamp was becoming increasingly irritated by the limpet marking of Carsley, Anelka was coming to the boil under Stimac's close attention and Overmars was in the sort of selfish mood that made you wonder whether he should have been given a ball of his own.

Parlour, Arsenal's best performer in the absence of Petit and Vieira from central midfield, was providing the biggest threat to the Derby goal, but his shots were mostly from long range and narrowly wide. A game of ten bookings and one dismissal was heading towards a quarter-final replay at Pride Park.

Then Kanu arrived and Arsenal's huffing and puffing found direction. Holes were picked in the Derby defence and finally, in the last minute, the Nigerian made the breakthrough. Parlour's corner fell at Keown's feet and the defender shot on the turn. The ball struck Kanu in the chest, but he swivelled faster than any 6ft 5in man should be able to and struck a shot firmly into the Derby goal.

Arsenal were in the semi-finals and, after the furore surrounding his contribution in the previous round, when he had combined with Overmars to score that controversial goal against Sheffield United, Kanu had made his proper impact on the competition and kept the holders on course for a second successive double.

"He is a quiet guy, but I think he has a strong spirit," Wenger said of Kanu. "He is improving physically and has a great attitude in training. What he does is always surprising you. You can never guess what he is about to do. The way he solves problems on the pitch is always creative.

"At the moment, he lacks pace and rhythm, but you cannot have that when you have played only five times in two years. He covers less ground than he can, but it is getting better. I see him as a link player, but I still do not know how best to use him. Perhaps in a Christmas tree [formation] with one striker [Anelka] and two behind [Kanu and Bergkamp]. But he can also play as a target man because of his height."

It is a problem that Wenger can enjoy toying with as his team prepares for the critical months of the season in improving form. Arsenal will not be helped by the loss of Stephen Hughes for three weeks with a fractured arm, but Vieira will return against Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow night and Petit will be refreshed by his long rest when he comes back from his ankle injury in three weeks.

Arsenal deserved their late break, although there should be sympathy for Derby, whose use of man-markers and three strikers had caused the home side difficulties in the first half. County allowed themselves to be pressed too deep after the interval and Wenger threw more and more forwards on until his opponents could resist no more.

The frustration proved to be too much for Dean Sturridge, who was shown his second yellow card for protesting about Kanu's goal. There was nothing untoward about it, though, and Kanu went home a convert to the wonders of the Cup. Much will be expected of him now, but, at 22, there is plenty of time to deliver.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, T Adams, N Winterburn — F Ljungberg (sub: Kanu, 65min), R Parlour, S Hughes (sub: N Vivas, 45), M Overmars (sub: K Diawara, 77) — D Bergkamp, N Anelka.
DERBY COUNTY (1-4-2-3): R Hoult — I Stimac — J Laursen, S Prior, L Carsley, S Schnoor (sub: J Hunt, 86) — S Eranio, D Powell — D Sturridge, D Burton, P Wanchope.
Referee: S Dunn

RUSSELL BOYCE




Dunn, the referee, steps in to cool tempers between Anelka, right, and Stimac during a full-blooded FA Cup quarter-final at Highbury, won by Kanu's late goal for Arsenal

SIXTH ROUND

ARSENAL (0) 1 **DERBY** (0) 0
Kanu 89 38,046
Sent off: D Sturridge (Derby County) 89

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, M Keown, T Adams, N Winterburn, R Parlour, F Ljungberg (sub: N Kanu 60min), S Hughes (sub: N Vivas 46), M Overmars (sub: K Dowers 77), D Bergkamp, N Anelka.

Booked: Winterburn, Anelka, Parlour, Vivas.

Derby County: R Hoult, J Laursen, I Stimac, S Prior, S Schnoor (sub: J Hunt 86), D Powell, L Carsley, D Burton, S Eranio, P Wanchope, D Sturridge.

Booked: Powell, Eranio, Laursen, Sturridge, Schnoor.

Referee: S Dunn.

POSTPONED: Barnsley v Tottenham.

Yesterday

MAN UTD (0) 0 **CHELSEA** (0) 0
54,587
Sent off: P Scholes (Manchester Utd) 66
R Di Matteo (Chelsea) 45

Manchester Utd: P Schmeichel, G Neville, H Berg, W Brown, D Irwin, D Beckham, R Keane, P Neville (sub: D Yorke 73min), J Blomqvist (sub: A Cole 82), P Scholes, O G Solskjaer (sub: E Sheringham 82).

Booked: Keane, Scholes, P Neville.

Chelsea: E De Goey, A Ferrer, M Desailly, G Lambourde, G Le Saux, D Petrescu (sub: E Newton 45), R Di Matteo, J Morris, B Goldbaek, T A Flo (sub: M Forssell 60), G Zola (sub: A Myers 80).

Booked: Desailly, Di Matteo. Referee: P Durkin.

NEWCASTLE (1) 4 **EVERTON** (0) 1
Ketsbaia 21, 73 Unsworth 57
Georgiadis 61, Shearer 81 36,504

Newcastle United: S Given, W Barton, D Domi, S Howey, N Dabizas, R Lee, S Marric (sub: G Georgiadis 54min), D Hamann, N Solano, A Shearer, T Ketsbaia.

Booked: Barton, Dabizas.

Everton: T Myhre, M Materazzi, D Weir, D Watson, D Unsworth, N Barmby, D Hutchison, A Grant, J O'Kane, D Cadamarteri (sub: J Oster 73), F Jeffers (sub: I Bakayoko 73).

Booked: Hutchison. Referee: G Barber



FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (1) 4 **PORTSMOUTH** (1) 1
Adebola 26, 60 Whittingham 4
Forster 50 20,617
Hughes 84

BURY (0) 0 **CRYSTAL PALACE** (0) 0
4,334

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 3 **STOCKPORT** (0) 0
Stewart 64 (pen), 68 11,914
Jenkins 72

IPSWICH (0) 1 **TRANMERE** (0) 0
Thetis 78 15,929

QPR (0) 0 **WOLVES** (0) 1
13,150 Sedgley 84
Sent off: M Atkins (Wolverhampton) 83
A Ready (QPR) 56

SHEFFIELD UTD (2) 3 **WATFORD** (0) 0
Devlin 38 15,943
Morris 44
Hamilton 58

SUNDERLAND (1) 1 **NORWICH** (0) 0
Phillips 7 39,004

SWINDON (1) 3 **BOLTON** (0) 3
B Howe 17 Fish 60
Hay 48 Jensen 70
Walters 68 Gudjohnsen 77
8,392

WEST BROM (1) 2 **OXFORD UTD** (0) 0
Quinn 38 13,875
Maresca 78
Sent off: J Beauchamp (Oxford Utd) 50

POSTPONED: Crewe v Grimsby (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Score draw. FT: Score draw), Port Vale v Bradford (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Away win. FT: Away win).

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (0) 0 **STOKE** (1) 1
5,504 Lightbourne 34

BRISTOL R (1) 2 **YORK** (0) 0
Roberts 17 5,749
Ellington 76
Sent off: M Tinkler (York) 84

FULHAM (1) 1 **LINCOLN** (0) 0
Horsfield 44 11,702

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 **PRESTON** (1) 1
Taylor 90 Gregan 10
9,581

MAN CITY (0) 0 **NORTHAMPTON** (0) 0
27,999
Sent off: K Horlock (Man City) 30

MILLWALL (0) 1 **NOTTS COUNTY** (1) 3
Hockton 82 Richardson 13, 64
6,042 Beadle 59

OLDHAM (0) 2 **BOURNEMOUTH** (2) 3
Whitehall 47 Cox 2
Duxbury 75 Stein 44
4,453 Warren 63

READING (0) 1 **MACCLESFIELD** (0) 0
Caskey 62 8,085

WALSALL (0) 1 **LUTON** (0) 0
Wrack 70 4,508

WREXHAM (0) 0 **CHESTERFIELD** (0) 0
3,224

WYCOMBE (0) 2 **COLCHESTER** (1) 2
Baird 57 Dozzell 18
Scott 76 D Gregory 90 (pen)
4,670

POSTPONED: Wigan v Burnley (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Home win. FT: Home win).

THIRD DIVISION

CARLISLE (1) 2 **SHREWSBURY** (1) 1
Dobie 36, 85 Berkley 32
2,501

EXETER (0) 0 **CAMBRIDGE U** (2) 3
3,478 Preece 3
Taylor 24
Butler 83
Sent off: J Gittens (Exeter) 45

HULL (0) 0 **MANSFIELD** (0) 0
6,692

LEYTON ORIENT (1) 3 **ROCHDALE** (0) 0
Ampadu 44 4,927
Griffiths 62, 70

PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 **HARTLEPOOL** (1) 1
Broughton 58 (pen) Miller 32
4,654

SCUNTHORPE (2) 3 **BRIGHTON** (0) 1
Eyre 9, 43 (pen), 90 Ryan 67
4,148
Sent off: J Moralee (Brighton) 90

SOUTHEND (1) 2 **SWANSEA** (0) 0
Roach 16 3,713
Conlon 86
Sent off: R Appleby (Swansea) 59

TORQUAY (1) 4 **HALIFAX** (0) 0
Robinson 43 1,715
Donaldson 49
Hill 54
Bedeau 67
Sent off: P Stoneman (Halifax) 90

POSTPONED: Darlington v Brentford (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Away win. FT: Home win); Rotherham v Barnet (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Score draw. FT: Home win); Scarborough v Plymouth (Pools Panel Verdict: HT No score draw. FT: No score draw)

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Cardiff 0 Chester 0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

COVENTRY (0) 2 **CHARLTON** (0) 1
Whelan 67 Robinson 55
Soltvedt 85
20,259
Sent off: J Aloisi (Coventry City) 57

Coventry City: M Hedman, R Nilsson, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows, N Whelan, P Telfer, G McAllister, S Froggatt, D Huckerby (sub: T E Soltvedt 75min), J Aloisi.

Booked: Hedman, Whelan.

Charlton Athletic: S Royce, D Mills, S Brown, C Tiler, C Powell, M Kinsella, N Redfearn (sub: J Barnes 63), J Robinson (sub: A Barness 69), K Jones, A Hunt (sub: P Mortimer 79), M Pringle.

Booked: Redfearn.

Referee: J Winter.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 **WEST HAM** (0) 0
Kachloul 10
15,240

Southampton: P Jones, S Hiley, P Colleter, C Marsden, C Lundekvam, F Benali, M Le Tissier (sub: S Ripley 84min), M Oakley, M Hughes, J Beattie, H Kachloul.

West Ham: S Hislop, N Ruddock, R Ferdinand, I Pearce, M Foe (sub: P Kitson 71), F Lampard, E Berkovic, M Keller, S Lomas, P Di Canio, T Sinclair.

Referee: D Gallagher.

WIMBLEDON (0) 0 **LEICESTER** (1) 1
11,801 Guppy 6

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, C Perry, B Thatcher, R Earle, E Ekoku (sub: J Hartson 57min), A Roberts, M Gayle, M Hughes (sub: C Hughes 76), J Euell.

Booked: C Hughes

Leicester City: K Keller (sub: P Arphexad 46), G Taggart, S Walsh, M Izzet, N Lennon, S Guppy, R Savage, P Kaamark, M Elliott, I Marshall, A Cottee

Referee: R Harris

SCOTLAND

TENNENT'S CUP

FOURTH-ROUND REPLAY

DUNDEE UTD (1) 3 **CLYDEBANK** (0) 0
Dolly 14 5,570
Olofsson 62, 65

FIFTH ROUND

MOTHERWELL (0) 0 **ST JOHNSTONE** (0) 2
7,660 Dods 71
Simao 80

Yesterday

RANGERS (0) 2 **FALKIRK** (0) 1
McCann 52 Moss 59
Amoruso 75 39,250



KILMARNOCK (0) 0 **DUNFERMLINE** (0) 0
8,032

SECOND DIVISION

ALLOA (0) 0 **PARTICK** (1) 1
996 Lauchlan 42

ARBROATH (0) 3 **INVERNESS C** (1) 1
C McGlashan 54, 74 McLean 43
Tindal 90 705
Sent off: P Cherry (Inverness Cal.) 63

CLYDE (1) 1 **FORFAR** (0) 0
Keogh 29 813

EAST FIFE (1) 1 **LIVINGSTON** (0) 1
Dair 26 Fleming 54
907

QUEEN OF SOUTH (3) 3 **STIRLING** (0) 0
Townsley 7 1,014
Adams 21
Cleeland 38

THIRD DIVISION

BRECHIN (0) 1 **COWDENBEATH** (1) 1
Kerrigan 85 Stewart 22
269

DUMBARTON (0) 0 **EAST STIRLING** (2) 2
246 Patterson 27
Muirhead 28 (pen)
Sent off: J Robertson (Dumbarton) 70

ROSS COUNTY (2) 6 **BERWICK** (0) 0
Tarrant 2, 56 1,743
McGlashan 7, 51
Taylor 55
Ross 61

STENHOUSEMUIR (3) 4 **QUEEN'S PARK** (0) 1
R Hamilton 12, 28 A Martin 82
Watters 43 570
Sprott 87

POSTPONED: Albion v Montrose (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Home win. FT: Home win).

Nationwide FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

BARROW (1) 1 **CHELTENHAM** (0) 1
Dawson 33 Knight 73
1,773
Sent off: M Freeman (Cheltenham) 65

DOVER (0) 1 **FOREST GREEN** (0) 1
Reina 85 Sykes 90
1,017

FARNBOROUGH (0) 1 **WELLING** (0) 1
Bailey 72 (pen) Trebble 59
683

HAYES (0) 2 **RUSHDEN & D** (1) 1
Sparks 47 Flynn 13 (og)
Bance 53 1,302

HEREFORD (0) 0 **TELFORD** (0) 0
1,592

KIDDERMINSTR (0) 1 **HEDNESFORD** (0) 2
Ford 80 Lake 49, 76
1,725

KINGSTONIAN (0) 0 **MORECAMBE** (0) 0
886

NORTHWICH (2) 4 **KETTERING** (0) 0
Tait 17, 29 1,385
Simpson 66
Birch 72
Sent off: S Williams (Kettering) 60

SOUTHPORT (1) 1 **STEVENAGE** (1) 1
Trundle 9 Leadbeater 27
1,055
Sent off: S Berry (Stevenage) 54
L Harvey (Stevenage) 38

WOKING (1) 2 **DONCASTER** (0) 0
Hay 38, 69 2,530

POSTPONED: Leek v Yeovil.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
		HOME					AWAY					
Kettering	34	10	4	4	26	13	8	4	4	22	16	62
Cheltenham	29	7	5	1	24	9	10	4	2	28	12	60
Rushden	29	9	2	3	28	13	7	6	3	21	12	53
Hayes	31	8	3	5	24	20	7	3	5	20	21	51
Dover	32	6	8	3	21	14	7	3	5	24	19	50
Stevenage	29	6	8	1	24	16	5	5	4	14	14	46
Northwich	30	8	2	5	22	14	5	5	5	17	19	46
Hednesford	30	7	6	2	21	15	4	7	4	15	15	46
Yeovil	28	5	3	6	24	23	7	6	1	18	12	45
Kingstonian	29	6	7	3	22	16	5	5	3	19	21	45
Woking	28	6	3	5	16	15	5	3	6	16	16	39
Kidderminstr	31	7	3	7	23	17	3	5	6	18	18	38
Hereford	32	5	4	6	13	14	5	4	8	21	23	38
Morecambe	32	6	5	5	25	24	4	2	10	21	39	37
Doncaster	32	6	3	6	20	20	3	6	8	17	24	36
Forest Green	26	5	2	4	15	13	3	7	5	20	19	33
Barrow	32	6	5	7	15	17	2	3	9	16	30	32
Leek Town	30	5	4	4	26	20	3	3	11	13	25	31
Telford	32	3	8	5	15	21	3	5	8	17	29	31
Southport	29	3	7	5	21	25	3	5	6	14	21	30
Welling	32	2	6	8	11	21	3	5	8	18	28	26
Farnborough	31	5	3	8	25	39	1	5	9	10	28	26

GOALSCORERS

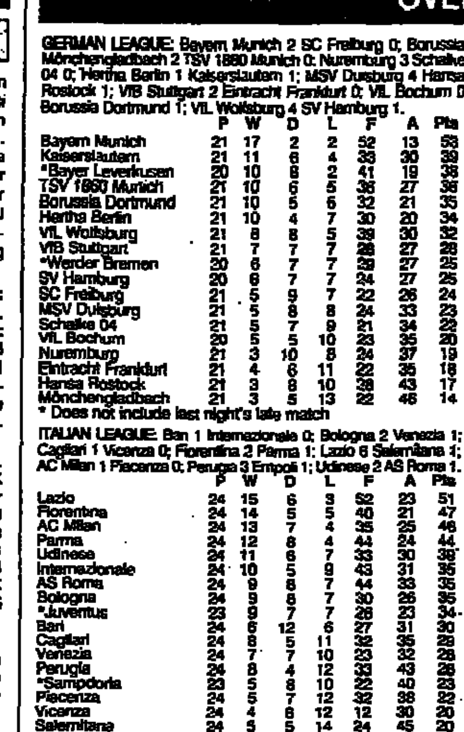
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 24: D Yorke (Man Utd). 21: M Owen (Liverpool). 20: J Aloisi (Coventry, 17 for Portsmouth). 19: A Cole (Man Utd). 17: A Ward (Blackburn, 15 for Barnsley). 15: O G Solskjaer (Man Utd); N Anelka (Arsenal). 14: A Shearer (Newcastle); R Fowler (Liverpool); A Gunnlaugsson (Leicester, 14 for Bolton); D Dublin (Aston Villa, 4 for Coventry); J F Hasselbaink (Leeds). 13: H Ricard (Middlesbrough); A Cottee (Leicester). 12: C Armstrong (Tottenham).

FIRST DIVISION: 31: L Hughes (West Brom). 23: M Stewart (Huddersfield). 20: L Mills (Bradford). 18: D Windass (Bradford, 18 for Oxford Utd). 17: I Onuora (Swindon); A Akinbiyi (Bristol City); B Angell (Stockport); N Quinn (Sunderland); I Roberts (Norwich). 16: R Keane (Wolverhampton); C Bellamy (Norwich). 14: R Blake (Bradford); D Adebola (Birmingham). 13: Marcelo (Sheff Utd); P Groves (Grimsby).

SECOND DIVISION: 24: M Stein (Bournemouth). 20: G Horsfield (Fulham, 8 for Halifax). 19: K Nogan (Preston). 18: C Asaba (Gillingham, 1 for Reading); R Cresswell (York); A Rammell (Walsall). 17: A Payton (Burnley); J Cureton (Bristol Rovers); S Barlow (Wigan); J Roberts (Bristol Rovers). 16: R Taylor (Gillingham). 15: B Hayles (Fulham, 10 for Bristol Rovers). 14: K Connolly (Wrexham); N Harris (Millwall); S Robinson (Bournemouth).

THIRD DIVISION: 18: J Forrester (Scunthorpe); L Owusu (Brentford). 17: M Butler (Cambridge Utd). 16: L Peacock (Mansfield). 15: S Partridge (Brentford, 15 for Torquay); J Taylor (Cambridge Utd); S Flack (Exeter). 14: J Eyre (Scunthorpe); M Gabbiadini (Darlington); J Williams (Cardiff). 13: T Benjamin (Cambridge Utd); K Charlery (Barnet); K Nugent (Cardiff). 12: L Glover (Rotherham). 11: D Brown (Hull).

OVERSEAS



GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayern Munich 2 SC Freiburg 0; Borussia Mönchengladbach 2 TSV 1860 Munich 0; Nuremburg 3 Schalke 04 0; Hertha Berlin 1 Kaiserslautern 1; MSV Duisburg 4 Hansa Rostock 1; VfB Stuttgart 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 0; VfL Bochum 0 Borussia Dortmund 1; VfL Wolfsburg 4 SV Hamburg 1.

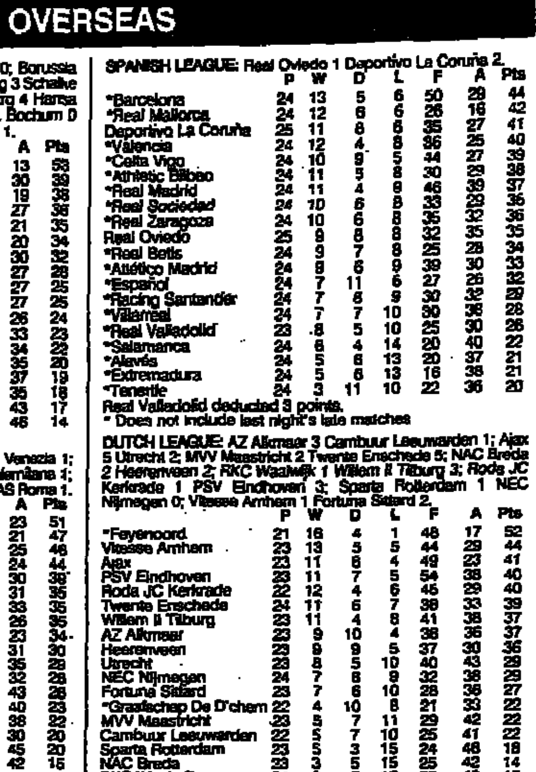
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	21	17	2	2	52	13	53
Kaiserslautern	21	11	6	4	33	30	39
*Bayer Leverkusen	20	10	8	2	41	19	38
TSV 1860 Munich	21	10	6	5	38	27	36
Borussia Dortmund	21	10	5	6	32	21	35
Hertha Berlin	21	10	4	7	30	20	34
VfL Wolfsburg	21	8	8	5	39	30	32
VfB Stuttgart	21	7	7	7	28	27	28
*Werder Bremen	20	6	7	7	29	27	25
SV Hamburg	20	6	7	7	24	27	25
SC Freiburg	21	5	9	7	22	26	24
MSV Duisburg	21	5	8	8	24	33	23
Schalke 04	21	5	7	9	21	34	22
VfL Bochum	20	5	5	10	23	35	20
Nuremburg	21	3	10	8	24	37	19
Eintracht Frankfurt	21	4	6	11	22	35	18
Hansa Rostock	21	3	8	10	28	43	17
Mönchengladbach	21	3	5	13	22	46	14

* Does not include last night's late match

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 1 Internazionale 0; Bologna 2 Venezia 1; Cagliari 1 Vicenza 0; Fiorentina 2 Parma 1; Lazio 6 Salernitana 1; AC Milan 1 Piacenza 0; Perugia 3 Empoli 1; Udinese 2 AS Roma 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	24	15	6	3	52	23	51
Fiorentina	24	14	5	5	40	21	47
AC Milan	24	13	7	4	35	25	46
Parma	24	12	8	4	44	24	44
Udinese	24	11	6	7	33	30	39
Internazionale	24	10	5	9	43	31	35
AS Roma	24	9	8	7	44	33	35
Bologna	24	9	8	7	30	26	35
*Juventus	23	9	7	7	26	23	34
Bari	24	6	12	6	27	31	30
Cagliari	24	8	5	11	32	35	29
Venezia	24	7	7	10	23	32	28
Perugia	24	8	4	12	33	43	28
*Sampdoria	23	5	8	10	22	40	23
Piacenza	24	5	7	12	32	38	22
Vicenza	24	4	8	12	12	30	20
Salernitana	24	5	5	14	24	45	20
Empoli	24	3	8	13	20	42	15

Empoli deducted 2 points.
* Does not include last night's late match



SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Oviedo 1 Deportivo La Coruña 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Barcelona	24	13	5	6	50	29	44
*Real Mallorca	24	12	6	6	26	19	42
Deportivo La Coruña	25	11	8	6	35	27	41
*Valencia	24	12	4	8	36	25	40
*Celta Vigo	24	10	9	5	44	27	39
*Athletic Bilbao	24	11	5	8	30	29	38
*Real Madrid	24	11	4	9	46	39	37
*Real Sociedad	24	10	6	8	33	29	36
*Real Zaragoza	24	10	6	8	35	32	36
Real Oviedo	25	9	8	8	32	35	35
*Real Betis	24	9	7	8	25	28	34
*Atlético Madrid	24	8	6	9	39	30	33
*Español	24	7	11	6	27	26	32
*Racing Santander	24	7	8	9	30	32	29
*Villarreal	24	7	7	10	30	38	28
*Real Valladolid	23	8	5	10	25	30	26
*Salamanca	24	6	4	14	20	40	22
*Alavés	24	5	6	13	20	37	21
*Extremadura	24	5	6	13	16	38	21
*Tenerife	24	3	11	10	22	36	20

Real Valladolid deducted 3 points.
* Does not include last night's late matches

DUTCH LEAGUE: AZ Alkmaar 3 Cambuur Leeuwarden 1; Ajax 5 Utrecht 2; MVV Maastricht 2 Twente Enschede 5; NAC Breda 2 Heerenveen 2; RKC Waalwijk 1 Willem II Tilburg 3; Roda JC Kerkrade 1 PSV Eindhoven 3; Sparta Rotterdam 1 NEC Nijmegen 0; Vitesse Arnhem 1 Fortuna Sittard 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Feyenoord	21	16	4	1	48	17	52
Vitesse Arnhem	23	13	5	5	44	29	44
Ajax	23	11	8	4	49	23	41
PSV Eindhoven	23	11	7	5	54	38	40
Roda JC Kerkrade	22	12	4	6	45	29	40
Twente Enschede	24	11	6	7	38	33	39
Willem II Tilburg	23	11	4	8	41	38	37
AZ Alkmaar	23	9	10	4	38	36	37
Heerenveen	23	9	9	5	37	30	36
Utrecht	23	8	5	10	40	43	29
NEC Nijmegen	24	7	8	9	32	38	29
Fortuna Sittard	23	7	6	10	28	36	27
*Graafschap De D'chem	22	4	10	8	21	33	22
MVV Maastricht	23	5	7	11	29	42	22
Cambuur Leeuwarden	22	5	7	10	25	41	22
Sparta Rotterdam	23	5	3	15	24	48	18
NAC Breda	23	3	5	15	25	42	14
RKC Waalwijk	24	2	6	16	25	49	12

* Does not include last night's late match

CHRIS RADBURN / NEWS TEAM INTERNATIONAL



The Oxford United defence can only watch as Fabian De Freitas prepares to shoot for West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns on Saturday. The home side's 2-0 victory lifted them into a play-off place but left Oxford in trouble

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Bishop Auckland 2 Worksop 1; Gateshead 2 Stalybridge 1; Marine 2 Lancaster 1. Other matches postponed.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bamber Bridge	33	15	12	6	55	40	57
Gateshead	33	16	8	9	60	45	56
Altrincham	28	16	7	5	50	22	55
Worksop	31	16	6	9	44	35	54
Winsford Utd	32	12	12	8	46	37	48
Hyde Utd	30	13	8	9	48	31	47
Gainsborough	32	14	5	13	47	44	47
Guiseley	26	14	3	9	44	33	45
Whitby Town	28	11	10	7	56	47	43
Marine	35	9	15	11	52	56	42
Blyth Spartans	33	12	5	16	46	52	41
Emley	27	10	10	7	34	30	40
Leigh RMI	27	9	11	7	45	40	38
Bishop Auck	35	9	11	15	43	60	38
Stalybridge	31	9	10	12	50	49	37
Frickley	29	8	13	8	40	44	37
Lancaster	31	9	10	12	42	49	37
Spennymoor	33	8	7	17	44	62	34
Runcorn	27	7	12	8	30	36	33
Colwyn Bay	26	8	6	12	37	46	30
Chorley	32	5	12	15	37	57	27
Accrington S	31	5	5	21	28	63	20

FIRST DIVISION: Droylsden 4 Burscough 2; Flixton 2 Matlock Town 2. Other matches postponed.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Crawley 2 Grantham 0; Halesowen 3 Dorchester 1; Hastings 1 Worcester 0; King's Lynn 3 Salisbury 3; Merthyr 1 Ilkeston 2; Nuneaton 6 Bromsgrove 0; Rothwell 0 Gloucester 1; Weymouth 3 Gresley 1. Other matches postponed.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	33	22	6	5	76	26	72
Gloucester City	32	16	9	7	46	36	57
Ilkeston Tn	32	14	9	9	52	39	51
Salisbury	31	14	8	9	45	44	50
Crawley Town	30	14	7	9	45	40	49
Boston Utd	30	11	13	6	51	33	46
Bath City	29	13	7	9	43	29	46
Weymouth	31	12	9	10	45	40	45
Halesowen	32	12	7	13	47	45	43
Grantham	31	13	4	14	43	44	43
Atherstone	29	10	11	8	39	33	41
Hastings	30	11	8	11	31	30	41
Tamworth	29	13	2	14	45	48	41
Worcester City	30	12	5	13	38	41	41
Burton Albion	30	11	5	14	38	42	38
Merthyr	32	11	5	16	41	53	38
Gresley Rovers	32	11	4	17	38	55	37
Cambridge City	31	9	9	13	36	50	36
King's Lynn	30	9	7	14	40	43	34
Dorchester	31	7	11	13	39	48	32
Rothwell Town	29	8	8	13	29	48	32
Bromsgrove	32	6	4	22	28	66	22

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bilston 0 Clevedon 1; Newport AFC 2 Stamford AFC 1; Redditch 4 Cinderford 1; Stafford 1 Bedworth 2, Stourbridge 0 VS Rugby 1. Other matches postponed. Southern division: Ashford 1 Bashley 3; Baldock 2 Erith and Belvedere 1; Brackley 2 Fisher London 0; Chelmsford 2 Folkestone Invicta 1; Cirencester 2 Sittingbourne 0; Dartford 0 Havant and Waterlooville 2; Fleet 1 Margate 2; Tonbridge Angels 0 Newport IoW 0; St Leonards 0 Raunds 2; Yate 0 Witney 0. Postponed: Corby v Andover.

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Aldershot 0 Billericay 1; Basingstoke 1 Bromley 1; Bishop's Stortford 0 Purfleet 0; Dulwich 2 Boreham Wood 0; Enfield 5 Harrow 0; Gravesend 0 Chesham 2; Hampton 0 Sutton 3; Hendon 4 St Albans 3; Slough 0 Dag and Red 1; Walton and Hersham 0 Aylesbury 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	29	19	6	4	52	21	63
Sutton Utd	28	18	4	6	58	30	58
Purfleet	32	17	5	10	55	38	56
St Albans	29	14	9	6	53	37	51
Billericay Tn	31	13	10	8	37	30	49
Enfield	28	14	6	8	52	31	48
Dag & Red	28	13	7	8	53	37	46
Gravesend	28	14	4	10	39	32	46
Boreham Wood	32	11	12	9	45	47	45
Aldershot Tn	28	12	7	9	60	28	43
Basingstoke	28	11	8	9	43	35	41
Hendon	27	11	8	8	51	45	41
Slough	31	11	7	13	42	42	40
Harrow Boro	30	10	6	14	42	51	36
Chesham	27	10	5	12	44	49	35
Dulwich	30	9	7	14	33	41	34
Walton & H	32	8	5	19	34	65	29
Bromley	30	7	7	16	41	53	28
Carshalton	32	7	7	18	34	67	28
Heybridge	27	7	6	14	27	54	27
Hampton	30	6	8	16	28	59	26
Bishop's S	29	5	8	16	38	69	23

FIRST DIVISION: Barton 2 Yeading 1; Bognor Regis 0 Oxford City 1; Braintree 1 Romford 3; Canvey Island 3 Hitchin 0; Chertsey 0 Berkhamsted 4; Croydon 2 Leyton Pennant 1; Leatherhead 2 Uxbridge 0; Maidenhead 0 Worthing 0; Staines 1 Molesey 0; Wembley 0 Grays 1; Whyteleafe 0 Wealdstone 2. Second division: Banstead 0 Hemel Hempstead 4; Bracknell 4 Barking 0; Edgware 0 Marlow 2; Harlow 2 Chalfont St Peter 0; Hertford 0 Horsham 1; Leighton 1 Hungerford 0; Met Police 2 Bedford Town 4; Tooting and Mitcham 1 Thame 2; Witham 0 Northwood 0; Wivenhoe 0 Abingdon Town 0; Wokingham 1 Windsor and Eton 0. Third division: Aveley 1 Egham 0; Camberley 1 Lewes 2; Cheshunt 2 Corinthian-Casuals 2; Croydon 5 Southall 1; Dorking 1 Hornchurch 3; East Thurrock 1 Clapton 1; Flackwell Heath 1 Ford 2; Kingsbury 2 Epsom and Ewell 3; Tring 0 Wingate and Finchley 4; Ware 3 Tilbury 3.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division. Barnet 1 Cambridge Utd 2; Bournemouth 1 Leyton Orient 2; Brentford 4 Portsmouth 1; Brighton 6 Gillingham 2; Bristol 1 Wycombe 0; Oxford Utd 2 Reading 0; Southend Utd 0 Luton 1. Postponed: Swindon v Colchester Utd.

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Arsenal 3 West Ham 0; Blackburn 1 QPR 1; Bolton 1 Southampton 2; Bristol 3 Everton 2; Charlton 0 Liverpool 0; Chelsea 3 Man City 1; Crystal Palace 0 Man Utd 1; Derby 1 Sunderland 0; Ipswich 2 Watford 0; Newcastle 1 Coventry 3; Norwich 2 Millwall 0; Peterborough 1 Tottenham 1. Postponed: Middlesbrough v Nottm Forest; Sheff Wed v Leicester. Under-17: Blackburn 9 QPR 1; Bristol 2 Everton 3; Charlton 0 Liverpool 1; Man Utd 3 Crystal Palace 0; Millwall 0 Man City 1; Newcastle 4 Coventry 3; Peterborough 2 Tottenham 0; Watford 1 Southampton 2; West Ham 2 Arsenal 2. Other matches postponed.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 2 Wolverhampton 2; Ludlow 2 Dudley Town 1; Malvern 0 Stafford 0; Star 0 Kington 2. Other matches postponed.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Rocester 1 Chasetown 1; Stratford 2 Pershore 1. Other matches postponed.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Brigg 4 Sheffield 1. Other matches postponed.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wallingford 4 Viking Sports 1; Ash 3 Walton Casuals 2; Bedfont 2 Godalming and Guildford 1; Chipstead 1 Chessington and Hook 1; Cobham 2 Ashford 0; Cranleigh 3 Raynes Park Vale 4; Hartley Wintney 0 Farnham 0; Merstham 2 Cove 0; Netherne 0 Reading 6; Westfield 0 Feltham 0.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Workington 3 Ramsbottom 2. Other Matches Postponed. League Cup: Semi-final, Second Leg: Postponed: Newcastle Town v Prescot Cables.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: All matches postponed.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury 2 Harrow Hill 0; Burnham 2 Almondsbury 1; Carterton 3 Cirencester Academy 0; Hallen 3 North Leigh 1; Kintbury 3 Swindon Supermarine 3; Shortwood 2 Didcot 0; Wantage 2 Bicester 1. Postponed: EFC Cheltenham v Fairford.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alveston 6 Dudley Sports 1; GPT (Coventry) 4 Kenilworth 1. Other matches postponed.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Presidents Cup: Semi-finals: All Matches Postponed. Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Handrahan Timbers 0 Coventry Sphinx 2.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham 2 Felixstowe Port and Town 1; Great Yarmouth 5 Halstead 0; Ipswich 0 Diss 0; Lowestoft 1 Bury Town 0; Maldon 5 Watton 1; Newmarket 4 Gorleston 1; Stowmarket 3 Harwich and Parkeston 0; Sudbury Town 0 Histon 1; Woodbridge 0 Sudbury Wanderers 1; Wroxham 5 Ely 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Bemerton Heath 5 East Cowes 1; Brockenhurst 0 Bournemouth 1; Downton 4 Hamble ASSC 0; Lymington and New Milton 1 Eastleigh 2; Moneys Fields 3 Christchurch 0; Portsmouth 1 Gosport 3; Thatcham 4 Fareham 3; Whitchurch 1 BAT 1.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey 1 Brook House 1; Beaconsfield Sycob 0 Toddington 2; Brimsdown 0 Brache Sparta 5; Hillingdon 2 Royston 0; Hoddesdon 2 New Bradwell St Peter 1; Potters Bar 2 Haringey 0; Ruislip Manor 6 St Margaretsbury 0; Somersett Ambury 4 Harpenden 1; Waltham Abbey 0 London Colney 3; Welwyn Garden 3 Buckingham Athletic 3. Postponed: Islington St Mary's v Barkingside.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Buckwellians 2 Old Ignatians 6; Old Hamptonians 2 Old Vaughanians 0; Old Salvatorians 6 C Manning OB 2. Postponed: Old Tenisonians v Enfield OG. Senior first division: Latymer OB 0 Old Suttonians 2; Old Reigatians 1 Phoenix OB 2; Old Tiffinians 0 Old Kingsburians 0; Old Wilsonians 2 Old Manorians 3; Shene OG 5 Old Isleworthians 4.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bradfieldians 1 Etonians 0; Old Foresters 1 Old Chigwellians 3; Lancing 1 Old Carthusians 0; Old Salopians 1 Old Brentwoods 3. First division: Malvernians 2 Harrovians 6; Wellesians 3 Wykehamists 2. Postponed: Old Cholmeleians v Aldenhamians.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple 11 Bishop Sutton 4; Bridgwater 1 Keynsham 0; Bridport 3 Calne 0; Bristol Manor Farm 3 Odd Down 0; Mangotsfield 1 Bideford 0; Taunton 1 Brislington 0; Yeovil TR 4 Elmore 1. Les Phillips Cup Quarter-finals: Backwell 0 Clyst 1.

AFA MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP: Third round: Old Actonians Assoc. 3 Old Aloysians 0.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Crouch End Vampires 3 Norsemen 0; East Barnet OG 2 West Wickham 1; NatWest Bank 0 Lloyds Bank 0; Old Parmiterians 1 Carshalton 4; Midland Bank 1 Old Bromleians 3; Old Esthameians 1 Old Parkonians 0; Old Lyonians 0 Civil Service 1; Winchmore Hill 2 Old Salesians 3; Old Stationers 4 Alexandra Park 3; South Bank 2 Old Owens 2; Cuaco 3 Broomfield 3; Merton 1 Alleyn Old Boys 1; Old Finchleians 7 Ibis 1; Brentham 2 Southgate Olympic 3; Old Westminster Ctz. 6 Kew Association 4; Bank Of England 3 Old Latymerians 0.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: City of London 1 Old Woodhouseians 1; Southgate County 2 HAC 2; Parkfield 1 Old Grammarians 1. Postponed: Hale End v Ulysses. Senior Cup: Albanian 3 Wandsworth 0; UCL Acads 1 Nottsborough 2.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: East Ham 2 Great Wakering 6; Southend Manor 4 Brentwood 1. Postponed: Stansted v Bowers.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Broadbridge Heath 3 Ringmer 3; Burgess Hill 2 Langney Sports 0; Eastbourne Town 1 Wick 3; Eastbourne 0 Pagham 1; Hailsham 0 Saltdean 3; Portfield 0 Redhill 0; Selsey 0 Hassocks 6; Shoreham 1 East Preston 0. Postponed: Horsham YMCA v Whitehawk.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham 2 Kempston 1; Holbeach 1 Cogenhoe 2; Long Buckby 0 N Spencer 7; Wellingborough 2 Potton 0. Other matches postponed.

UHLSPORT KNOCKOUT CUP: Third round: All Matches Postponed.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Crockenhill 3 Beckenham 1; Deal 6 Erith 0; Herne Bay 0 Chatham 1; Hythe 2 Lordswood 4; Sheppey 1 Ramsgate 0; Thamesmead 2 Cray 0; Tunbridge Wells 0 Whitstable 1. Postponed: Canterbury v VCD; Slade Green v Faversham.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: All Matches Postponed.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: All matches postponed. Southern division: Brighton 4 Leyton Orient 2; Ipswich 1 Whitehawk 4. Postponed: Three Bridges v Barry; Barnet v Langford.

AXA FA WOMENS CUP: Fourth round: Watford 1 Arsenal 5; Sheff Wed 0 Southampton Saints 5; Reading Royals 3 Tranmere 5. Postponed: Doncaster v Croydon.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry Town 4 Bangor City 2; Caernarfon Town 2 Cwmbran 4; Caersws 0 Inter Cable-Tel 2; Rhayader Town 1 Afan Lido 1; Rhyl 1 Haverfordwest 2. Postponed: Carmarthen Town v Newtown; Connah's Quay v Conwy.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clachnacuddin 2 Rothes 2; Lossiemouth 1 Cove 2; Nairn County 3 Buckie Thistle 1; Peterhead 1 Keith 1; Wick Academy 3 Fort William 1. Postponed: Deveronvale v Brora; Huntly v Fraserburgh.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena 0 Coleraine 1; Cliftonville 1 Crusaders 1; Glentoran 1 Linfield 2; Portadown 2 Glenavon 2. Postponed: Newry v Omagh Town. First division: Ards 0 Distillery 2; Carrick 1 Larne 1; Dungannon Swifts 1 Ballyclare 1; Limavady Utd 1 Bangor 3.

FAI HARP SENIOR CHALLENGE: Quarter-finals: Kilkenny City 2 Finn Harps 2; Sligo Rovers 1 Bray 1; Derry City 0 Shelbourne 2.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
2	1	1	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2
1	1	1	1	2	[illegible]	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	[illegible]	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	[illegible]	2	1

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is low: 4 score draws and 14 no-score draws.

Full-time: no claims required — forecast is moderate: 10 score draws and 6 no-score draws.

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were nine score draws: Swindon v Bolton; Gillingham v Preston; Wycombe v Colchester; Peterborough v Hartlepool; East Fife v Livingston; Brechin v Cowdenbeath, Barrow v Cheltenham; Dover v Forest Green; Farnborough v Welling. Payouts on eight, seven, six and five score draws. Eight score draws: No winners. Seven score draws: [illegible] winners each £2,190.50. Six score draws: 611 winners each £47.50. Five score draws: 5375 winners each £5.



		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
			HOME					AWAY						
1	Man Utd	28	10	4	1	35	15	6	5	2	26	14	57	+34
2	Chelsea	27	9	5	0	21	8	5	6	2	20	14	53	+19
3	Arsenal	27	8	5	0	21	4	5	6	3	14	9	50	+22
4	Leeds	27	8	3	2	21	6	4	6	4	20	20	45	+15
5	Aston Villa	27	8	2	4	25	21	4	6	3	13	10	44	+7
6	Wimbledon	28	7	5	2	18	12	3	5	6	14	26	40	-6
7	West Ham	28	8	3	3	20	19	3	4	7	11	20	40	-8
8	Liverpool	27	7	4	2	33	16	4	2	8	17	18	39	+16
9	Derby	27	5	5	3	13	12	4	6	4	13	13	38	+1
10	Tottenham	27	6	6	2	23	17	2	6	5	10	15	36	+1
11	Sheff Wed	27	6	3	5	17	10	4	2	7	18	17	35	+8
12	Newcastle	27	7	3	4	21	17	2	5	6	14	19	35	-1
13	Middlesbro	27	4	8	1	16	10	3	4	7	18	29	33	-5
14	Leicester	27	5	3	5	18	20	3	6	5	9	16	33	-9
15	Coventry	28	6	4	4	19	15	2	2	10	11	24	30	-9
16	Everton	27	3	8	3	9	7	3	2	8	11	22	28	-9
17	Charlton	28	4	5	5	18	13	2	4	8	14	26	27	-7
18	Blackburn	27	5	3	5	15	16	1	5	8	12	22	26	-11
19	Southamptn	28	6	2	6	21	22	1	3	10	6	31	26	-26
20	Nottm F	27	1	6	6	11	24	2	2	10	11	30	17	-32

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
			HOME					AWAY						
1	Sunderland	35	15	2	1	40	8	7	8	2	28	14	76	(68)
2	Ipswich	35	12	1	5	25	11	8	6	3	23	11	67	(48)
3	Bradford	34	12	3	2	37	14	7	4	6	22	20	64	(59)
4	Birmingham	35	9	7	2	25	12	8	3	6	28	18	61	(53)
5	Bolton	34	10	4	3	34	18	6	8	3	28	25	60	(62)
6	West Brom	36	11	2	5	38	24	4	6	8	23	30	53	(61)
7	Watford	36	8	7	3	23	17	6	4	8	28	33	53	(51)
8	Huddersfld	35	11	6	1	35	18	3	4	10	16	36	52	(51)
9	Wolves	34	8	8	1	26	15	6	2	9	21	20	52	(47)
10	Sheff Utd	34	9	5	4	32	25	4	6	6	22	26	50	(54)
11	Grimsby	32	9	4	3	22	13	5	3	8	12	21	49	(34)
12	Norwich	34	6	8	2	25	18	6	4	8	21	25	48	(46)
13	Tranmere	35	6	5	6	26	22	4	10	4	22	25	45	(48)
14	C Palace	35	8	8	1	33	19	2	4	12	12	36	42	(45)
15	Swindon	35	6	8	4	36	32	4	2	11	13	27	40	(49)
16	Stockport	35	5	6	6	19	17	4	7	7	21	28	40	(40)
17	Barnsley	34	5	7	5	25	20	4	6	7	14	20	40	(39)
18	Portsmouth	35	8	4	5	28	18	1	7	10	19	38	38	(47)
19	QPR	35	6	6	6	20	17	3	4	10	16	28	37	(36)
20	Oxford Utd	35	6	5	6	22	23	2	4	12	12	34	33	(34)
21	Bury	34	7	5	5	19	19	0	6	11	9	31	32	(28)
22	Port Vale	33	7	1	8	15	23	2	3	12	18	37	31	(33)
23	Bristol City	33	4	7	6	24	29	1	6	9	18	32	28	(42)
24	Crewe	33	4	3	9	20	32	2	5	10	18	34	26	(38)

SECOND DIVISION

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
			HOME					AWAY						
1	Fulham	33	14	2	1	33	10	8	4	4	18	14	72	(51)
2	Preston	34	10	4	3	39	18	9	5	3	25	16	66	(64)
3	Walsall	34	10	5	3	26	17	9	2	5	20	19	64	(46)
4	Gillingham	33	11	5	2	33	13	4	9	2	21	15	59	(54)
5	Bournemth	32	11	5	0	33	8	5	4	7	21	24	57	(54)
6	Man City	33	8	6	2	23	9	5	8	4	16	15	53	(39)
7	Stoke	31	8	3	4	22	14	8	0	8	17	19	51	(39)
8	Chesterfld	33	12	2	3	28	12	2	7	7	9	17	51	(37)
9	Wigan	31	8	3	3	23	8	6	4	7	22	22	49	(45)
10	Millwall	35	6	7	4	24	19	7	3	8	16	24	49	(40)
11	Reading	33	8	6	4	24	20	4	5	6	15	24	47	(39)
12	Wrexham	33	6	5	6	16	20	5	4	7	19	26	42	(35)
13	Luton	32	7	3	5	18	15	4	5	8	21	26	41	(39)
14	Blackpool	33	5	6	5	18	16	5	5	7	14	20	41	(32)
15	Bristol R	31	7	6	4	26	19	2	6	6	16	15	39	(42)
16	Colchester	33	5	6	5	16	22	3	8	6	21	26	38	(37)
17	York	34	4	7	6	21	24	5	2	10	19	33	36	(40)
18	Burnley	33	5	6	6	15	22	3	4	9	21	35	34	(36)
19	Notts Co	32	5	3	7	19	20	4	4	9	15	26	34	(34)
20	Oldham	33	5	2	9	18	23	4	4	9	15	23	33	(33)
21	Lincoln City	33	7	3	6	21	20	2	3	12	10	33	33	(31)
22	Northmptn	34	2	8	6	13	18	4	4	10	13	21	30	(26)
23	Wycombe	33	6	4	8	23	19	0	6	9	8	25	28	(31)
24	Macclesfld	32	3	4	8	10	17	2	5	10	11	24	24	(21)

THIRD DIVISION

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
			HOME					AWAY						
1	Camb Utd	32	10	3	3	26	16	8	3	5	29	18	60	(55)
2	Cardiff	33	12	3	3	30	13	5	5	5	17	16	59	(47)
3	L Orient	33	10	4	3	26	18	5	7	4	22	20	56	(48)
4	Brentford	32	12	2	2	31	15	5	0	11	22	34	53	(53)
5	Scunthorpe	32	11	1	4	33	23	5	3	8	21	22	52	(54)
6	Mansfield	34	11	1	4	28	15	4	6	8	20	31	52	(48)
7	Peterboro	34	8	4	6	33	27	6	3	7	22	18	49	(55)
8	Plymouth	32	9	3	4	22	12	5	4	7	16	17	49	(38)
9	Rotherham	32	7	5	4	31	21	6	3	7	28	26	47	(59)
10	Halifax	33	7	7	3	28	21	5	4	7	16	19	47	(44)
11	Swansea	32	7	7	1	21	12	5	4	8	16	23	47	(37)
12	Exeter	33	10	3	4	24	13	3	5	8	12	20	47	(36)
13	Brighton	34	7	1	8	22	24	7	3	8	21	25	46	(43)
14	Chester	34	4	10	2	17	17	6	5	7	25	27	45	(42)
15	Shrewsbury	34	9	4	4	29	23	2	6	9	11	24	43	(40)
16	Rochdale	33	7	6	3	18	12	4	4	9	16	26	43	(34)
17	Darlington	31	8	3	4	30	14	4	3	9	17	29	42	(47)
18	Southend	34	8	4	5	22	13	3	5	9	19	34	42	(41)
19	Torquay	34	7	7	3	23	15	2	6	9	14	28	40	(37)
20	Carlisle	33	6	5	6	16	15	3	6	7	15	21	38	(31)
21	Barnet	33	7	3	7	23	27	3	4	9	18	30	37	(41)
22	Hartlepool	34	5	5	7	27	26	4	3	10	17	31	35	(44)
23	Hull	34	5	4	9	18	23	4	3	9	15	28	34	(33)
24	Scarboro	32	5	2	8	20	27	3	2	12	13	31	28	(33)

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
			HOME					AWAY						
1	Rangers	26	9	3	0	25	7	9	2	3	36	15	59	+39
2	Celtic	26	11	2	1	40	7	3	5	4	22	17	49	+38
3	Kilmarnock	26	7	5	2	19	11	4	4	4	12	9	42	+11
4	St Johnstn	26	5	5	2	19	16	6	4	4	13	17	42	-1
5	Motherwell	26	6	4	4	17	19	1	5	6	8	19	30	-13
6	Aberdeen	26	4	4	4	16	18	4	2	8	13	25	30	-14
7	Dundee	26	4	3	7	10	20	3	3	6	12	23	27	-21
8	Dundee Utd	26	2	7	3	11	11	4	1	9	16	20	26	-4
9	Hearts	26	6	1	7	17	19	0	5	7	5	19	24	-16
10	Dunfermline	26	2	6	4	11	17	0	9	5	8	21	21	-19

FIRST DIVISION

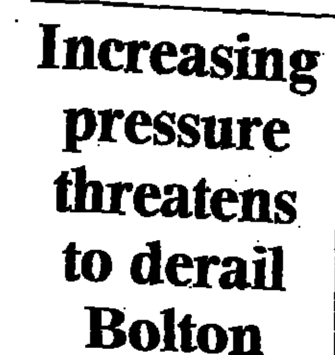
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
			HOME					AWAY						
1	Hibernian	28	12	1	1	38	10	9	4	1	30	17	68	+39
2	Falkirk	27	6	5	3	20	15	8	1	4	23	12	48	+16
3	Airdrie	28	4	2	8	13	25	10	3	1	22	8	47	+2
4	Ayr	27	7	2	5	34	19	7	1	5	17	16	45	+16
5	St Mirren	28	8	1	5	16	18	4	6	4	12	12	43	-2
6	G Morton	27	4	4	6	15	15	5	2	6	14	13	33	+1
7	Clydebank	25	3	8	3	10	10	5	5	5	16	19	37	-3
8	Raith	28	4	4	7	14	21	2	4	7	15	26	26	-18
9	Hamilton	28	2	5	6	11	18	3	4	8	16	29	24	-20
10	Stranraer	28	2	2	11	14	24	2	0	11	10	31	14	-31

SECOND DIVISION

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
			HOME					AWAY						
1	Livingston	28	10	4	0	24	7	8	4	2	30	20	62	+27
2	Inverness C	28	11	2	0	31	15	6	4	5	29	23	57	+22
3	Clyde	28	9	3	3	23	13	4	4	5	15	17	46	+8
4	Alloa	28	7	3	5	34	22	4	2	7	20	20	38	+12
5	Partick	28	6	2	6	14	15	5	2	7	13	16	37	-4
6	Stirling	28	5	0	8	18	24	5	4	6	20	28	34	[illegible]
7	Arbroath	28	6	3	6	16	21	3	3	7	10	17	33	-12
8	East Fife	28	4	3	7	18	27	6	2	7	17	22	32	-14
9	Queen of S	28	5	6	3	19	13	3	1	10	14	22	31	-2
10	Forfar	28	3	3	7	20	25	2	3	10	14	31	21	-22

THIRD DIVISION

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
			HOME					AWAY						
1	Ross County	27	10	1	3	33	11	8	4	1	37	18	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	Stenhsmuir	28	7	1	6	29	21	7	4	3	21	13	47	[illegible]
3	Brechin	27	6	6	4	17	17	7	2	3	17	16	44	[illegible]
4	Berwick	28	5	3	6	20	21	4	8	2	17	17	38	[illegible]
5	Albion	26	5	3	5	21	27	6	2	5	17	21	38	[illegible]
6	Dumbarton	28	3	4	6	14	17	6	4	3	20	16	35	[illegible]
7	East Stirlng	28	4	7	3	22	16	4	3	7	20	22	34	[illegible]
8	Queen's Pk	28	4	5	3	16	14	3	4	9	16	24	30	[illegible]
9	Cowdenbth	27	4	2	8	15	22	2	4	7	10	24	24	-21
10	Montrose	27	4	4	5	20	21	2	1	11	12	[illegible]	23	[illegible]



Increasing pressure threatens to derail Bolton

Swindon Town	3
Bolton Wanderers	3

By Russell Kempson

PRESSURE. It grabs the throat, churns the stomach, turns legs to jelly. Those of a calm, composed nature become jibbering wrecks; fearsome, combative hulks dissolve into simpering pussycats. The weak curl up and die; only the strong survive.

Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, will confront the issue this morning. In a playing and managerial career spanning 35 years — from Chester-le-Street Boys to Vancouver Whitecaps, from Derby County and England to Whitley Bay — he experienced the best and worst that pressure can produce. He came through.

For many of his players, though, it is an alien concept. Attempting to gain promotion from the Nationwide League first division into the FA Carling Premiership might not appear to be too much of a burden, but, apparently, it is. Todd recognises the sweaty-palm syndrome and is worried.

Vinnie Jones, 35, has decided to leave football to concentrate on his acting career. The former Wales international, who starred in the successful British film *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, made his name at Wimbledon but also played for Leeds United, Sheffield United, Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers, the last of his clubs.

A high-scoring draw away to Swindon Town on Saturday, though salvaged from 2-0 and 3-1 deficits, was not up to scratch. "People might think that was a useful point for us, but I don't," he said. "A lot of the lads have not been in this position before, but they've got to handle it. It's hard to take anything positive from that display. We are not doing our jobs in the manner we should be. I said to the players: 'There's no pressure from me. It's up to you to do it.'"

After an unbeaten sequence of 15 league matches, Bolton have failed to win in their past four games and have slipped from second place to fifth, seven points off the automatic promotion place. A previously sound defence has conceded nine goals in three outings. The strain is showing.

It made for fascinating fare, after a relatively low-key first half in which Swindon went ahead through a header by Howe. Bolton bickered among themselves and Barry Knight, the referee, took four of the seven names he would collect in a spiky game. It was mildly entertaining, yet nothing compared to what followed.

Hay scampered clear to stretch Swindon's lead soon after the interval, Fish's overhead acrobatics reduced the gap and Walters made it 3-1 with an unstoppable 25-yard free kick. Completing a frantic spell of four goals in 17 minutes, Jensen and Gudjohnsen achieved parity.

In the remaining 13 minutes, Bolton's confidence returned, their passes zapped around the pitch and Swindon all but buckled. "It's not a strange game," Todd said. "It's the players that make it strange."

SWINDON TOWN (3-5-2): F Talia — G Davies, B Borrows (sub: G Hall, 52min), A Reeves — L Collins, S Howe, S Leitch, M Walters, T Gooden — G Ndah (sub: C Griffin, 90), C Hay.
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): J Jaaskelainen — N Cox, M Fish, R Elliott, M Whitlow — M Johansen, P Frandsen, C Jensen, S Sellars — D Holdsworth, R Taylor (sub: E Gudjohnsen, 55).
Referee: B Knight.

Nationwide League: Phillips on target for remorseless Sunderland

Drama sold out in Stadium of Light

Sunderland	1
Norwich City	0

By George Caulkin

YOU are strolling through the aisles of a cavernous supermarket: you have your shopping list and everything on it. You go to the checkout with all that you came for, you pay, you leave and yet you feel a nagging emptiness inside. The sensation does not lend itself to easy definition, but where was the intricacy, the spontaneity, the fun?

This is how it feels to visit the Stadium of Light, with its same grandiose edifice, the faultless goods and the dearth of surprise. You turn up, Sunderland win without drama, you go home. The scale of the operation cannot fail to impress; but any novelty has long since worn out. You get what you pay for, nothing more. Not, in other words, the kind of place to rummage for trinkets.

Against Norwich City on Saturday, bogeys were buried and records set, yet countless pairs of eyes in another vast crowd will have swiftly glazed over. Another team come to harass and disrupt, another 90 minutes of guerrilla warfare.

As usual, Peter Reid's side navigated a tortuous path through it, beating Norwich for the first time under his stewardship and, in the process, recording their ninth successive home League victory. "I'm pleased with that one," Reid said later, and one could sense that he meant it.

It felt momentous simply because of their awesome, remorseless efficiency. None of their recent sequence, which matches the feat of Bob Stokoe's Sunderland in 1975-76, have been better than 2-0. At the start of the season, they trounced Tranmere Rovers 5-0, beat Watford 4-1 and put seven past Oxford United, but that was before opposing teams realised that trenchant negativity might be their salvation.

From the refreshing equality of the opening moments, Norwich appeared to be tracing a different blueprint. They pressed and harried, but when a Sunderland player got his foot on the ball, there was no collective, lurking retreat to the safety of their half. There was a breathy openness about their football.

It deflated pretty sharply when Chris Makin moved beyond the right side of defence and clipped the ball forward, where a back-heeled pass from Darren Williams — a stand-in for the injured Lee Clark — created a yard of space and Kevin Phillips produced a stunning finish. Seven minutes gone, game over and a joint retreat to physicality.

Almost surreptitiously, Sunderland contrived to prompt a useful save from Andy Marshall. Nicky Summerbee struck the post and, six minutes from time, the shirt of Gavin McCann received a sharp tug. "A stone-cold penalty," Reid said.

What would Sunderland make of the FA Carling Premiership, Bruce Rioch, the Norwich manager, was asked? "Oh, I think Peter will need about £50 million, give or take a bit of small change," he replied. It was meant in jest, but one could not help wondering. A supermarket suddenly surrounded by luxury stores.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, A Melville, P Butler, M Gray — N Summerbee, K Ball (sub: G McCann, 83min), D Williams, A Johnston — N Quinn, K Phillips.
NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): A Marshall — C Wilson, C Fleming, M Jackson, E Fugelstad — D Sutch, L Marshall, P Grant (sub: D Russell, 60), K O'Neill — I Roberts, C Bellamy (sub: C Llewellyn, 74).
Referee: D Pugh.

Thetis on hand to turn jeers to cheers

Ipswich Town	1
Tranmere Rovers	0

By Peter Robinson

THE boos tumbled down the stands at Portman Road like waves on a beach, driven by the weight of expectation. For a team set on promotion to the FA Carling Premiership, it was an indignity as unwelcome as it was unexpected.

Less than an hour later, the jeers had turned to cheers, the imprecations to elation, quite out of keeping with the fact that Ipswich Town had just beaten Tranmere Rovers. Not Liverpool or Everton; Merseyside's "other" club. By a goal to nil.

The change was extreme, unnecessarily so, but it left no doubt about the passion of those supporting Ipswich Town in their pursuit of the Premiership, or about their belief that they are capable of returning to the level that they have graced in the past. Given that Sunderland are probably up, a shortlist of four is emerging for who will join them — Ipswich, Bradford City, Birmingham City and Bolton Wanderers — and this victory lifted the first of those into second place, at the top of the chasing pack.

Yet it also raised one or two doubts about Ipswich. For example, they were without Keiron Dyer on Saturday, the 20-year-old midfield prospect who, if truth be told, is going to be playing in the Premiership next season, regardless of whether Ipswich are there or not. A broken leg sustained last Tuesday will keep him out of action for six weeks or so and, without him, Ipswich lacked a cutting edge.

It says something, too, that George Burley, the manager, is seeking a replacement for Dyer on loan rather than trying to buy a new player, which would be expensive. Ipswich lack the funds of, for example, Bolton or Bradford.

Still, if they can keep grinding out the wins, they will be happy enough. Happy-go-lucky, even, because they were fortunate here, having been outplayed by Tranmere, especially in the first half.

Ipswich were in complete charge for perhaps a minute, the 78th, but it was enough. It was quite a minute, too, as dramatic as you could wish for. It began with a cross by Johnson that flew towards Stockwell at the far post. He, in turn, fell face-first into the turf, pushed by O'Brien, penalty. Venus tried to take it, only to be delayed by the referee while he booked O'Brien.

That done, Coyne, in the Tranmere goal, began a mesmerising dance on his line, distracting Venus so much that he struck his penalty far too close to the goalkeeper, who saved it well. Corner. In came the cross, a scramble, a header by Scowcroft and Thetis diverted the ball over the line. Goal.

Tranmere did their best to salvage something, but Wright was in awesome form and the fates were against them, even when Thetis climbed all over Kelly in the second minute of added time and escaped punishment, which would have entailed a penalty to Tranmere.

A penalty? To the away team? In injury time? This crowd, so moody and volatile, would have gone quite potty about that.

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — M Thetis, A Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis, R Petta (sub: M Stockwell, 74min), M Holland, J Magilton, J Clapham — R Naylor (sub: J Scowcroft, 80), D Johnson.
TRANMERE ROVERS (4-1-4-1): D Coyne — G Allen, J McGreal, C Hill (sub: D Challinor, 75), A Thompson — L O'Brien (sub: J Koumas, 82) — A Parkinson, K Irons, A Mahon, L Jones (sub: D Kelly, 85) — S Taylor.
Referee: P Walton.



Asaba, the Gillingham striker, is watched closely by Gregan, the Preston North End captain, at Priestfield

Taylor has Preston in his sights

Gillingham	1
Preston North End	1

By Nick Szczepanik

WHEN a player scores five times in a single match, he is entitled to a sense of anticlimax if he manages just one goal in the next. Nevertheless, Robert Taylor, who monopolised the scoring during Gillingham's 5-0 win away to Burnley nine days ago, may come to regard his late equaliser on Saturday as being as valuable as his famous five put together.

Had he not escaped the Preston North End defence for the first time in the ninetieth minute to head in a cross by John Hodge, the visitors, in second place in the Nationwide League second division, would have widened the gap between themselves and Gillingham, in fourth, to ten points. Even so, Gillingham's best chance of promotion to the second echelon of English football for the first time probably remains the play-offs, but at least they prevented Preston from disappearing over the horizon.

They deserved to do so, if only for their perseverance. Preston had taken an early lead, when Sean Gregan, the captain, deflected in a bouncing effort through a crowd of players by Mark Rankine, and they had looked the superior team.

Gillingham exerted plenty of rudimentary pressure, but most was absorbed by a defence in which Colin Murdock, the central defender, excelled. Murdock was ably supported by a collective work ethic that Gregan ascribed to team spirit built by David Moyes, the manager.

"A big part of football, if not the biggest part," Moyes said. "The players have a belief in each other and what they are trying to do. When we get a chance, we do try to play."

In fact, Preston's belief in passing the ball swiftly and accurately on the ground was in marked contrast to the home side's route-one approach, which saw David Lucas mainly occupied in collecting a series of aimless high balls.

Such was the unrelenting nature of the airborne assault that one or two decent crosses were bound to come in and Lucas was obliged to make three outstanding saves. The best came when he dived low to his left to a cross by Southall, although he was powerless to save Taylor's late effort.

"A terrific game played at a great pace," Tony Pulis, the Gillingham manager, said. "Their keeper was outstanding: the save from Asaba was top-drawer stuff. We're disappointed we didn't get three points, but pleased at the end, because you'd settle for anything then."

Preston retain control of their own destiny, even though the gap between them and Walsall, in third place, has narrowed to two points. However, Walsall, like Bournemouth and Manchester City, must visit Deepdale, while Preston go to Fulham on the last day of the season hoping for a repeat of the events of 1970-71, when they pinched the divisional championship from the same opponents at the same venue. "There's a lot of football to be played," Moyes said, "and a lot of points to be dropped."

GILLINGHAM (3-4-1-2): V Bartram — B Ashby, A Pennock, G Butters — N Southall (sub: J Hodge, 78min), P Smith, M Saunders (sub: K Lisbie, 64), M Patterson — A Hessenthaler — C Asaba, R Taylor.
PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): D Lucas — J Darby, M Jackson, C Murdock, D Ludden — A Gray, M Rankine, S Gregan, D Eyres — K Nogan, S Basham (sub: J Macken 75).
Referee: A Wiley.

Griffiths keeps promotion rivals in check

Leyton Orient	3
Rochdale	0

By Bill Edgar

THE supporter told by the stadium announcer of his fatherhood might have been equally shocked by the rest of the message relayed during the first half of this match. "Stay until the end of the game," he was advised. Clearly, his wife appreciates the excitement of watching Leyton Orient during what could be the birth of a successful side.

After a week in which the image of intellectually-challenged footballers was reinforced by the Le Saux saga, an Orient team in chess-board shirts used its tactical nous to pull off a fifth consecutive victory in the Nationwide League third division. Displaying a fluidity more common among Dutch sides, the Londoners effectively operated without a right back, with four players taking turns to fill the gap when necessary.

At times, their formation was as hard to decipher as a Kasparov strategy, but Barry Hearn, the king of Orient, looked on proudly and optimistically. Referring to his team in the match programme, the chairman said that a new 1,300-seat stand at Brisbane Road would not be the only thing to go up this May. Hopes of promotion increased on Saturday as Orient rose to third place.

Orient, like Rochdale, may be a small-time club in a big-city sprawl, but the Brazilian television-style yelling of "goal" on the public address system to mark every home score hints at a yearning for a bigger stage.

The bellow boomed across East London three times on Saturday and, on each occasion, Carl Griffiths had been heavily involved for Orient. His pull back from the byline set up the headed opener for Kwame Ampadu in first-half stoppage time and the Orient forward added the other two goals himself, knocking in a rebound and then converting a brilliant curling cross by Tony Richards.

Tommy Taylor, the Orient manager, said: "There's a gap opening up at the top of the table and we've got to make sure we stay there."

His team is unlikely to be dislodged by Rochdale, who remain in mid-table after a game in which they threatened little, apart from a shot against a post by Robbie Painter. It is familiar territory for the Lancastrians, who have been mere pawns in league football for a generation, stuck in the bottom division for 25 consecutive seasons — by far the longest period among clubs at that level. Orient may yet prove to be too clever for this company.

LEYTON ORIENT (3-5-2): S Barrett — D Smith, M Joseph, R Joseph — T Richards (sub: D Morrison, 75min), W Walschaerts, M Ling, K Ampadu, M Lockwood — C Griffiths (sub: A Inglethorpe, 87), A Simba (sub: S Watts, 82).
ROCHDALE (3-5-2): N Edwards — M Monington, A Farrell, D Bayliss — P Carden, G Stoker, J Lydiate, J Peake, A Barlow (sub: M Stuart, 82) — R Painter (sub: G Lancashire, 70), A Morris.
Referee: K Hill.

Amoruso sends battling Falkirk tumbling

Rangers	2
Falkirk	1

By Phil Gordon

FORTUNE hardly favoured the brave at Ibrox. Instead, it ignored Falkirk's pleas for justice as Lorenzo Amoruso bludgeoned Rangers into the semi-finals of the Tennent's Scottish Cup yesterday.

Falkirk, of the first division, seemed destined to prolong their love affair with this competition by earning a quarter-final replay when the Rangers captain saved the Scottish Premier League leaders with a 75th-minute winner. There seemed to be little danger when the tall Italian defender ambled forward from the centre circle, but Falkirk backed off and Amoruso thrashed a 35-yard shot that dipped before taking a vicious bounce to beat Paul Mathers, the goalkeeper.

Celtic and Rangers avoided each other in the semi-finals of the Scottish Cup when the draw was made yesterday. Rangers meet St Johnstone in a repeat of this season's League Cup final, while Celtic face Ayr United or Dundee United, should they beat Greenock Morton tonight.

Falkirk, who reached the final of this competition in 1997 and were semi-finalists last season, had cancelled out an early second-half goal by Neil McCann with a splendid strike from David Moss. They also struck the post and forced Stefan Klos, the Rangers goalkeeper, to excel.

"Falkirk's commitment was better than ours," Dick Advocaat, the Rangers coach, said. "Only Amoruso played well — I never saw the ten other players in my team."

Alex Totten, the Falkirk manager, said: "We deserved a replay because our performance was exceptional, but the two goals we lost were dreadful."

Falkirk's hunger was epitomised by Kevin McAllister, who won every tackle. Elsewhere, Totten's team were well organised, with Martyn Corrigan and Jamie McQuilken, in particular, ensuring that McCann and Kanchelskis were not allowed to provide Rangers with the threat on the flanks that has characterised their recent routs.

McCann gave Rangers the lead in the 52nd minute. How the winger outjumped the central defence to connect with a corner by Giovanni van Bronckhorst was a mystery, but the ball flew past Mathers. Scott Crabbe responded for Falkirk with a shot that struck the inside of the post in the 57th minute, before Moss equalised after Klos had only parried a shot by James.

Falkirk's hopes of grabbing a second equaliser were thwarted when Klos denied James late on.

RANGERS (3-5-2): S Klos — S Porrini, L Amoruso, A Vidmar (sub: G Amato, 66min) — A Kanchelskis, B Ferguson, G van Bronckhorst, J Albertz, N McCann (sub: S Wilson, 85) — S Guivarc'h (sub: J Johansson, 50), R Wallace.
FALKIRK (3-5-2): P Mathers — D Sinclair, I den Bieman, K James — M Corrigan, D Moss, S Crabbe (sub: G Hutchison, 85), S McKenzie, J McQuilken — M Keith, K McAllister.
Referee: J Rowbotham.

Five Nations Championship: French dreams shattered after breathtaking encounter in Paris

Proud Wales revive glory days

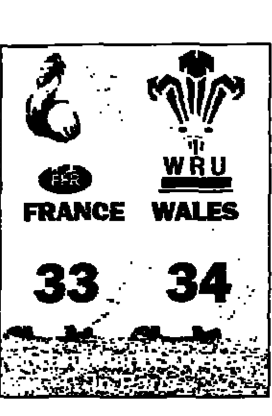
A QUITE remarkable game and a staggering result, one that puts the smile back on the face of a team and should galvanise a nation. This was one of the great matches in the history of the Five Nations Championship, one from which the BBC would make a small fortune should it release a video of the contest this week.

This was special because it was so unexpected and because of the manner by which it was achieved — by a side and a coach under extreme pressure in the most intimidating of arenas. France had not lost in the championship for three years and had harboured hopes of a triple grand slam to end the millennium.

It was a game of breathtaking quality, played, in the first half at least, at bewildering pace. It included seven tries and, fittingly, ended on a note of high drama as a last-minute penalty goal attempt by Thomas Castaignède, which would have won the match for France, drifted wide. When Jim Fleming, the Scottish referee, blew the final whistle moments later, the Welsh celebrations began. Some cried, while others were just stunned by the scale of their achievement, for Wales had not won in Paris since 1975.

Graham Henry, the Wales coach, who admitted having a word with the Almighty as Castaignède prepared to try to repeat his match-winning heroics from Dublin, must pray too that, in the long term, this result brings administrators to their senses and ends petty squabbles and feuds. Cardiff and Swansea can play their part in healing a fractured rugby country by settling their differences with the Welsh Rugby Union. It would be madness not to grasp the opportunity and build on the progress made by Henry. With Wales A and the under-21s also winning, it was a weekend to remember.

Henry has every right to feel vindicated, but he is not the type to score points. He had advocated a bold approach, but nobody, not even the New Zealander himself, could have anticipated the epic that unfolded. The rush and *élan* with which Wales took the game to a France side who, perhaps, were guilty of early complacency, was quite astonishing.



With more composure, greater awareness and some genuine pace on the left wing, Wales could have scored at least three more tries in a scarcely believable first half, in which points were racked up at the rate of more than one a minute. What also marked this performance was how the Welsh came back after conceding scores, and the lead, as fortunes ebbed and flowed.

Henry confessed that this was the highlight of his career, but, in the moment of his greatest triumph, he made it clear that this was only a beginning.

"We may have been bit fortunate in the end, but we should have beaten South Africa, so there's swings and roundabouts. Sometimes you pull it off and sometimes you don't. It was our turn today. I wondered whether we would get one.

"We've scaled our Everest, but there are a lot more mountains to climb before we are competitive in world rugby. Fitness levels are not high enough, which showed in the second half when we started to lose ball in the tackle and didn't get players in support quick enough, but it's a good start. It gives us some foundations and some confidence."

The building blocks were put in place by a heroic front row, where Ben Evans made a huge impression in the tight and loose. The lineout, too, was vastly improved. The solid platform gave Neil Jenkins, lying flat, vital time, which, in turn, enabled him to create space for Scott Gibbs, Mark Taylor and, in particular, Shane Howarth with a succession of cut-out passes. Jenkins could even afford to miss four successive penalty kicks, but he converted five — the last of which secured victory. He, too, is thriving on Henry's influence and has probably never made more individual breaks in an international.

"We have had a bit of a slating, but we always knew we could play rugby," Jenkins said. "We showed against one of the best sides in Europe, maybe the world, that we can play rugby. I just hope people get behind us and accept what we are trying to do."

France were not helped by the loss of Richard Dourthe, who dislocated his shoulder after five minutes, an injury that will keep him out of the remainder of the championship. It forced a realignment, with David Aucagne coming on at fly half with Castaignède moving inside.

While they looked dangerous going forward — Comba, in particular — they looked vulnerable defensively in midfield, where Gibbs was a tower of strength, on one occasion ripping the ball from Comba in the tackle and setting in motion the move that led to a try by Dafydd James. Pierre Villepreux, the France assistant coach, said that mentally Wales got their game plan right. He will point also to the ease with which Wales broke the gain line.

He said: "The Welsh team at the moment have the best collective game in the Five Nations." His solace will be the performance of Emile Ntamack at full back, who scored a hat-trick of tries, albeit that Matthew Robinson gifted him one, while his third came via a clear forward pass by Ibañez that brought France to within three points in the second half.

On another day, Wales would have crumbled, but not on Saturday, when a team stood up, looked collectively in the mirror and came of age.

GARETH WATKINS



Neil Jenkins, of Wales, hugs Evans after the memorable defeat of France, while Comba, right, shows his dejection



Ntamack evades Taylor to secure the last of his three tries for France on Saturday

HOW IT UNFOLDED AT STADE DE FRANCE

Minute	FIRST HALF	Score
4	Penalty goal: N Jenkins	0-3
5	Try: Charvis. Conversion: Jenkins	0-10
8	Try: Ntamack Con: Castaignède	7-10
13	Pen: N Jenkins	7-13
16	Pen: Castaignède	10-13
23	Pen: N Jenkins	10-16
24	Try: Ntamack	15-16
31	Pen: Castaignède	18-16
33	Try: James	18-21
36	Try: C Quinnell. Con: N Jenkins	18-28

Minute	SECOND HALF	Score
49	Try: Ntamack Con: Castaignède	25-28
59	Pen: Castaignède	28-28
68	Pen: N Jenkins	28-31
71	Try: Castaignède	33-31
74	Pen: N Jenkins	33-34

SCORERS:
FRANCE: Tries Ntamack 3, Castaignède. Conversions: Castaignède 2. Penalty goals: Castaignède 3.
WALES: Tries: Charvis, James, C Quinnell. Conversions: N Jenkins 2. Penalty goals: N Jenkins 5.
FRANCE: E Ntamack (Toulouse): P Bernat-Salles (Biarritz; rep: X Garbajosa, Toulouse, 40min), R Dourthe (Stade Français; rep: D Aucagne, Pau, 5), F Comba (Stade Français), T Lombard (Stade Français); T Castaignède (Castres), P Carbonneau (Brive); C Califano (Toulouse), R Ibañez (Perpignan, captain), F Tournaire (Toulouse; rep: S Marconnet, Stade Français, 40), O Brouzet (Bègles-Bordeaux), F Pelous (Toulouse), P Benetton (Agen; rep: R Castel, Béziers, 61), M Raynaud (Narbonne), T Lièvremont (Perpignan).
WALES: S P Howarth (Sale): M F D Robinson (Swansea; rep: G Thomas, Cardiff, 52), M Taylor (Swansea), I S Gibbs (Swansea), D R James (Cardiff); N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Cardiff, captain; rep: D S Llewellyn, Ebbw Vale, 68); P J D Rogers (London Irish; rep: A L P Lewis, Cardiff, 63), G R Jenkins (Swansea), B R Evans (Swansea), J C Quinnell (Richmond), C P Wyatt (Llanelli), C L Charvis (Swansea), B D Sinkinson (Neath), L S Quinnell (Llanelli).
Referee: J Fleming (Scotland).

Congregation follows the plot with songs of praise

GERALD DAVIES

At Stade de France

High up in the north stand of the Stade de France, where the red colours of Wales had amassed in thicker numbers than elsewhere, the congregation — for they are truly faithful followers — broke into song. This was when Neil Jenkins kicked his fourth penalty of the afternoon to take Wales into the lead once again at 31-28. They were singing *Hymns and Arias* and *Cwm Rhondda* and perhaps it was appropriate that in a match of twists, turns and rolls of the dice, they sang them both together, although the two songs merged incongruously.

Welsh rugby being a chancy business these days, the dice were to roll a few times more, benefiting one side then the other, before Wales could finally claim the victory that was, without sentiment, rightfully theirs.

This was a great game of rugby, highlighting, as if it were ever needed, what an extraordinary tournament is the Five Nations Championship. Nothing can ever be taken for granted. No one, except for those who wear their hearts permanently and unashamedly on their sleeves — and even some of them were in doubt — had held much hope of Welsh success. Damage limitation was about as optimistic an opinion as you were likely to get before the match.

But boldness is what Graham Henry, the Wales coach, had asked of his players. Boldness is what he got. Flair and audacity is what is expected of France. This time Wales matched them, and more.

'No one expected to see Jenkins running'

Sure, there had been sporadic moments in both their previous matches during which Wales had displayed a collective enterprise to persuade Pierre Villepreux, the France assistant coach, to say beforehand — and to which he was to repeat after the game — that Wales were likely to prove to be their strongest opponents in the championship.

It says a great deal about Henry's persuasive abilities that, despite his team's previous failures, he has convinced his players to continue to pursue their course of bold and imaginative rugby. As Villepreux further observed, no Frenchman ever expected to see Jenkins, the Wales fly half, running from his own 22 metre line. This Jenkins did himself or passed on to others — Gibbs, Taylor or Howarth — to do likewise.

If Castaignède had his moment in the sun at Wembley last year in the corresponding fixture, then Jenkins, this time, went a good deal of the way to getting his own back, in front of a crowd of 79,000 which was a couple of thousand more paying spectators than for the football World Cup. Jenkins had his best game by far for his country, even if it was inversely to the way we might have expected. He missed four consecutive penalty chances, which is unheard of for him, but he was able to break clear of France's first line of defence three times in a way that no one, having seen his previous performances, might have contemplated. His Pontypridd followers knew better.

After so much that has been barren, the victory was satisfying, of course, but it was the manner in which it was achieved that was so stimulating. There can hardly have been a more pulsating 40 minutes in the history of the championship than this first half. Both France and Wales were in attacking overdrive, defending one moment then attacking the other's line in the next. There were 31 points on the board in the first 22 minutes, yet other chances for both teams had come and gone which might easily have added to them.

"Our players did not have enough fear of the Welsh," Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, said. "However much our coaches said to them that Wales were our strongest opponents, I do not think our players truly believed us. If France are to perform well, we need to fear our opponents."

For Wales, it was a great occasion. To think where they have been this season, and the lowering feelings they have harboured in defeat, this was a majestic performance. To have beaten France at their own running game and to do so in Paris against all the odds made this a Wales performance to rank with the best.

Peters suffers the pain of Italy's frustration

Scotland	30
Italy	12

BY ALASDAIR REID

THE first rush of blood was to Massimo Giovanelli's head, the second down Eric Peters's face. The Italy flank forward brought his boot crashing down on the grounded Scotland player's right temple, his moment of madness in the 73rd minute fully meriting the red card shown to him by Robert Davies, the referee. As Giovanelli walked off, he was followed by Peters, red rivulets barely masking the look of bewilderment and pain across the Scotland captain's features.

It was the ugliest image of an ugly match in which the inevitability of Giovanelli's offence was almost as alarming as its consequence. Italy had been thwarted by the Scotland defence and their own limitations in the brief period, shortly after the interval, when they managed to sustain pressure near the Scotland line. Having failed to draw blood in the metaphorical sense, the creeping frustration that soon brought yellow cards for two of their players made it all the more likely that they would do so in the literal sense instead.

That Georges Coste, the Italy coach, tried later to defend his player by referring to the leniency shown recently to Martin Johnson was both absurd and irrelevant. However, Coste probably did Scotland a favour by emphasising their moral authority in the post-match exchanges. Authority of any other sort had been noticeably absent from anything else that Scotland did, which is not to say that they did not deserve their win, or even that the margin flattered them; rather that they were far less impressive in achieving it than they had been in recent games.

Indeed, it was as if they were holding something back, which

Results and tables........40

was understandable, not only because they face Ireland in the Favie Nations Championship in a fortnight's time but also because the limitations of Italy presented a licence for self-restraint. Perversely, had Italy not resorted to brutality, theirs would have been a thoroughly forgettable performance.

Only in its opening quarter did the occasion rise above the humdrum. The first 16 minutes of full-throttle rugby produced four tries, two for each side, and promised a match of vivid colour ahead. Gradually, it slipped into dreary monochrome instead.

Still, it had been good while it lasted. Only 68sec had passed when Kenny Logan finished a move, initiated by a steepling kick by Gregor Townsend and sustained by slick passing across the midfield, by arcing behind the posts for the first try.

Martin responded for Italy six minutes later, but Scotland wasted little time in regaining their advantage, Cameron Murray crossing the Italy line.

Logan added a couple of penalties to the one that he had landed in the twelfth minute, although he also sent three relatively straightforward efforts past the posts.

SCORERS: Scotland: Tries: Logan (2min), C Murray (9), Townsend (62). Conversions: Logan 3. Penalty goals: Logan 3 (12, 38, 70). Italy: Tries: Martin 2 (8, 16). Conversion: Dominguez.
SCORING SEQUENCE (Scotland first): 7-0, 7-7, 14-7, 17-7, 17-12, 20-12 (half-time), 27-12, 30-12.
SCOTLAND: G Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians), C Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), A Tait (Edinburgh Reivers, rep: S Longstaff, Glasgow Caledonians, 73min), J Leslie (Sanix), K Logan (Wasps), G Townsend (Brive), I Fairley (Edinburgh Reivers, rep: G Burns, Edinburgh Reivers, 42), T Smith (Glasgow Caledonians; rep: D Hilton, Bath, 79), G Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), P Burnell (London Scottish), S Murray (Bedford), S Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons), M Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers), E Peters (Bath, rep: A Pountney, Northampton, 73).
ITALY: J Pertile (Roma), F Roselli (Roma), C Stoica (Narbonne), L Martin (Padova), D Dallan (Treviso), D Dominguez (Stade Français), A Troncon (Treviso), M Cuttita (Calvisano), A Moscardi (Treviso), F Properzi (Treviso), W Cristofoletto (Treviso; rep: S Stocco, Padova, 73), M Giacheri (West Hartlepool), M Giovanelli (Narbonne, sent off, 73), A Sgorlon (Treviso), C Checchinato (Treviso, rep: C Caione, Roma, 46).
Referee: R Davies (Wales)

England's women deny Irish any consolation

Ireland	0
England	56

BY KARL JOHNSTON

THERE was to be no consolation for the defeat at Lansdowne Road at Stradbrook yesterday, where Ireland's women rugby players suffered an embarrassing rout by a talented England team that ran in ten tries. The Ireland supporters can be relieved only that England's all-round excellence was not matched by their goalkicking.

There were no weak links in the England side. Their mobile pack was able to lay on a stream of possession and, with Jo Yapp and Sue Appleby calling the shots with authority at half back, Ireland's defence was stretched constantly by the incisive running of the England threequarters. The lineout was also a disaster area for Ireland, so much so that kicking to touch was tantamount to handing possession over to England.

England were out of sight at the end of the first quarter, when Nicky Crawford had scored two tries and Chris Diver, Sue Day and Jo Yapp had also crossed. The second half was equally shattering for the beleaguered Irish, as England ran in a further five tries, courtesy of Day, with two, Nicky Ponsford, Jayne Molyneux and Teresa O'Reilly.

SCORERS: England: Tries: N Crawford 2 (2, 6), C Diver (16), S Day 3 (19, 46, 74), J Yapp (38), N Ponsford (45), J Molyneux (53), T O'Reilly (79). Conversions: T Collins, V Huxford, C Frost.







Five Nations Championship: Midfield shows fierce resolve as Woodward goes back to basics



Rodber withstands the grip of Wallace to stretch out in the closing stages for the try that put the seal on England's impressive victory in Dublin. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Wilkinson brandishes sword to proclaim new England iron age

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBLIN

WHEN England regroup next week to prepare for their meeting with humbled France, Clive Woodward will remind his players of the moment at Landowne Road on Saturday when the game — and possibly the championship — might have swung away from them. That is what coaches do, although, in this instance, England have taken the lesson to heart already.

Conor O'Shea was within inches of a try that, with the conversion, would have brought Ireland to within a point at a time when their tide was running furiously high. The full back failed to score because of the utter commitment and organisation in defence that ran like an iron streak through England, even while other parts of their game still need polishing.

A fortnight earlier, against Scotland, the defence in midfield was confused; over the past week, Phil Larder, the former rugby league coach who now works regularly with England and Leicester — the meanest defenders in the Allied Dunbar Premiership — has worked daily with the midfield trio of Grayson, Wilkinson and Guscott and the results were plain to see for the 49,000 who watched Ireland's vaulting hopes slip beneath the waves.

If you enjoy seminal seconds in sport, Wilkinson's tackle on Keith Wood in full stride was one such, telling Ireland's icon that this was not to be his day. You do not often hear coaches lauding opponents to the skies, but Warren Gatland, of Ireland, was in no doubt. "England have found a player for the future," he said of Wilkinson. "For a 19-year-old, his composure, his goalkicking, show he has a huge future."



The teenager scored 14 points with his boot, came within reaching distance of the tryline in the closing stages as England hammered down the coffin lid and provided the superb, floating pass in the first half from which Matt Perry scored. "The ball from Jonny just sat up in the wind and I was able to take O'Shea on a different line," Perry said.

Wilkinson himself was far more satisfied with the self-assertion that he had shown on his first visit to Dublin in the Five Nations Championship, sponsored by Lloyds TSB, but England as a whole had reasons to be cheerful. They need not worry if their workmanlike virtues lost something in translation after the nip-and-tuck of events in Paris; it is they who stand at the head of the championship table, they alone who can gather a triple crown or a grand slam.

That they found ways of conceding 22 penalties, the bulk of them for offside and playing the ball on the ground, is a source for concern, but their overall discipline was much improved and they can even disregard the yellow card shown to Martin Johnson — for a shoulder charge into an opponent's back — which Paddy O'Brien, the referee, described as "innocuous". Consideration was given to citing for a stamp on Richard Cockerill's head, which earned the briefest of debut caps for Neil McCarthy, of Gloucester, but no further action will be taken.

"That was the best performance since I took over as coach," Woodward said in the first flush of enthusiasm. The important factor for Woodward was that it came away from home, against an Ireland side full of confidence and well-blessed with talent; it also explored the character within the side, the ability to shrug off a disappointing display and concentrate on the next task, in which Lawrence Dallaglio led by example.

It says something of the tactics that England have explored in the past that the middle five were far more definitive in their actions, with Dallaglio sticking to the role of No 8, rather than moving back and forth between the blind-side flank and No 8.

"It does give you control of the decision-making process," Dallaglio said. Richard Hill, that exemplary footballer, has the ability to play off either flank, anyway, and Kyran Bracken, in what amounts to his natal town, knew precisely where he was.

The scrum half kept Ireland's back row honest, as they say in New Zealand, throughout the game and left Grayson to exert the tactical control. There were moments of confusion for England, ball in hand, during the first half, but down the wind Grayson played well and his chasers forced O'Shea to surrender the lineout advantage. Here, again, England were prepared to attack the Ireland throw, stealing a couple of balls and spoiling two more on a day when Ireland had the greater share of set-piece possession.

That they could do little with it says much for England's aggressive defence. "They went back to a more basic game," Gatland said. "They know how to do it and they are very good at it."

For all Woodward's ambitions for his team, it is no bad thing to build on a game that comes naturally to the English. They imposed themselves to such an extent that Ireland's space was closed down and Victor Costello was wrapped up as he charged from No 8.

True, England should have made far more of their dominance into the cold wind (less of a factor than it might have been) during the first quarter. Even allowing for fashion, there are other things to do with penalties close to the opposing line other than kick them to the corner for a lineout. Other, better sides will punish them for their failure to convert territory into points and it came as a relief to see the swift hands of the backs capitalise on Rodber's forceful run into midfield before Perry scored the first try.

Grayson's dropped goal came from a patient build-up before Humphreys briefly restored Ireland's lead with his fourth penalty goal.

Yet the nerveless Wilkinson, who missed only once during the afternoon, extracted maximum revenge when Ireland offended in the tackle and, in injury time, Rodber barged his way over.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	2	0	0	51	36	4
Scotland	2	1	0	1	54	44	2
France	2	1	0	1	43	43	2
Ireland	3	1	0	2	53	60	2
Wales	3	1	0	2	77	95	2

RESULTS

Feb 6: Ireland 9 France 10, Scotland 33 Wales 20. Feb 20: England 24 Scotland 21, Wales 23 Ireland 29. Mar 6: Ireland 15 England 27, France 33 Wales 34.

FIXTURES

Mar 20: England v France, Twickenham; Scotland v Ireland, Edinburgh. Apr 10: France v Scotland, Paris. Apr 11: Wales v England, Wembley.

Minute	FIRST HALF	Score	Minute	SECOND HALF	Score
9	Penalty goal: Humphreys	[illegible]	42	Pen: Humphreys	[illegible]
20	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]	52	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
29	Pen: Humphreys	[illegible]	60	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
34	Try: Perry	[illegible]	65	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
38	Dropped goal: Grayson	[illegible]	71	Pen: Humphreys	[illegible]
40	Pen: Humphreys	[illegible]	80	Try: Rodber Con: Wilkinson	[illegible]

SCORERS:
IRELAND: Penalty goals: Humphreys 5.
ENGLAND: Tries: Perry, Rodber. Conversion: Wilkinson. Penalty goals: Wilkinson 4. Dropped goal: Grayson.

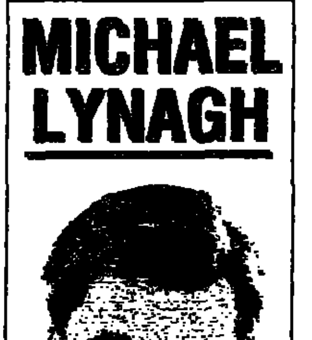
IRELAND: C M P O'Shea (London Irish); J P Bishop (London Irish), K M Maggs (Bath), R A J Henderson (Wasps), G Dempsey (Terenure College); D G Humphreys (Dungannon), C D McGuinness (St Mary's College); P M Clohessy (Young Munster; rep: J M Fitzpatrick, Dungannon, 66min), K G M Wood (Harlequins), P S Wallace (Saracens), P S Johns (Saracens, captain), J W Davidson (Castres), D O'Cuinneagain (Sale), A J Ward (Ballynahinch), V C P Costello (St Mary's College; rep: E R P Miller, Terenure College, 65).

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath); D L Rees (Sale), J C Guscott (Bath), J P Wilkinson (Newcastle), D D Luger (Harlequins); P J Grayson (Northampton), K P P Bracken (Saracens); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester; rep: N McCarthy, Gloucester, 67-68), D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), R A Hill (Saracens), N A Back (Leicester), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain).

Referee: P D O'Brien (New Zealand).

Muscle and flair provide day of drama

MICHAEL LYNAGH



What a contrast the two Five Nations Championship matches offered on Saturday. A glorious victory for Wales in Paris, against a France side who must be starting to wonder when their form is going to arrive. Then a dour, hard-fought slog in Dublin, where England emerged as victors against a gallant, but, in the end, out-muscled Irish side.

England were always going to win. Right from the outset, they strangled the Irish into submission. The forwards took control up front and in the end they did not let any of the much talked-about Irish passion flow. They took the Irish forwards on and, in doing so, struck at the heart of their strength and tore it down. Ireland hardly looked like scoring all afternoon, apart from the continuous flow of penalties from the whistle of Paddy O'Brien.

There was one worrying factor in this performance for England. They had so much possession and field position, yet still could not put Ireland away until the last five minutes. Having said that, one got the impression that, to their credit, Ireland were simply hanging on.

There were many heroes for England, most wearing numbers in single figures. The tight five, Johnson and Rodber, in particular, speared into the opposition. The front row not only controlled the scrum but also did their fair share of tackling and carrying of the ball when required.

The back row played well, with Dallaglio probably the pick, mainly because this was his type of game rather than the more open affair favoured by Hill and Back. It was good to see him carrying the ball, where he is at his best.

Kyran Bracken at scrum half was, for me, the dominant figure. He made correct decisions continually and showed great strength and determination when he decided to attack himself. His service to the backs was swift and sure, interrupted only by big forwards annoyingly getting in between him and Grayson.

The decision-making of the two English half backs was so much healthier than it had ben against Scotland. It was not burning-the-grass running rugby, but it was not the day to be throwing the ball around. They made the right decisions to win, even if it wasn't pleasing to the eye.

The best player in the English back line was Jonny Wilkinson. He was born with that England jersey on his back, or so it seems, because he plays like he has been in the team forever. I know, now, why he is not at fly half. If he tackles like that, he would not be allowed into the No 10 club. He continually puts bigger and supposedly harder men not only down, but backwards. One memorable tackle on a runaway Keith Wood would have made any world-class flanker happy.

He created the first England try with a wonderful pass and the responsibility of goalkicking appears to be no chore. He is going to be in the white shirt for a long time.

I felt the performance of Matt Perry at full back was sound, but he retains the tendency to make some strange decisions when he has time to think. He needs to take the safety approach first of putting the ball up and chasing. After doing this a few times, the opportunity to counter with the ball will come.

The encounter in Paris was the type of game that makes you get up and out of your seat and move closer to the television. I was enthralled with this contest and by the end I was all of six inches away from the screen.

The Quinnell brothers, along with Colin Charvis, tore into the French. Neil Jenkins found himself in wide-open space that he normally lets other people explore and Shane Howarth provided some real slice from the back.

It was a great Wales performance, very similar to the massive effort they produced against South Africa last year, only this time they had the belief to go on and finish the job.

It has been so long since they won in France that they didn't seem to know who to hug, where to run or what to do when the final whistle was blown at the end. If they keep playing like this, they will have many more opportunities to hone their post-match celebrations.

Wood chopped down to size as Irish sing blues

Julian Muscat reports on how the hopes and ambitions of Ireland's supporters were broken by a rampant England pack



Ward, of Ireland, fumbles the ball after a tackle by Guscott

There was a deep, resonant longing within Irish voices that accompanied the half-time *ballad* in Dublin. Their green-clad warriors trailed England by a barely perceptible margin. They had hardly a whiff of the ball, but their nostrils still flared with the scent of victory. Yet the heart of the song was to tell of Ireland's profound disappointment at the final rites. "Our love is on the wing. We had dreams, and songs to sing. It's so lonely In the fields of Athenry."

Lansdowne Road was a lonely place for the bulk of the 49,000 present, many of whom had paid handsomely to witness the new dawn. Ireland had all but roasted French *sang-froid*; had then overrun Wales to herald the prospect of a first triple crown in 14 years. Here before them stood a vulnerable England team that had made three significant changes to counter the fire of Ireland.

Yet the flame that burnt like a beacon of hope proved to be no more than a flickering illusion. Images of the wreckage lay scattered all over the field. It showed in the dejection of Victor Costello, the abrasive No 8, whose anonymous presence was highlighted only when he gave way to Eric Miller in the second half. It showed in the impotence of David Humphreys, whose intention to bombard the England defence was hijacked for his lack of the ball in hand.

Above all, it was evident in the display of Keith Wood, the talismanic hooker. If Wood is Ireland's totem, England hacked him down like a tribe of cut-throats. Rarely could he break the first tackle, his presence fading eventually against the massed English ranks.

So complete was his eclipse that he was stopped clean in his tracks by Jonny Wilkinson. Then followed the final act of humiliation: a charging Wood caught, enveloped and dispatched into retreat by a rampant English pack.

His predicament was exacerbated by his regular failure to hit his men at the lineout. As England discovered to their cost against Scotland, poor ball from the lineout smothers adventurism. Ireland were thus constricted — much to the chagrin of their supporters, who, on their way to the ground, had breezed past a billboard proclaiming free sex in exchange for a ticket.

It was the first of many bad decisions from Celts who would endure a wretched afternoon. To witness their dejection was to understand how deep-rooted was their conviction as they sang and danced their way out of the city centre three hours earlier. To be sure, this was no sentimental journey. The substance to their perceived revival was such that the best seats were changing hands at record prices. In the end, the old adage rang true: an expectant Ireland never bites like the underdog. In stark contrast, evidence of England's spirit positively haunted the old stadium.

Richard Cockerill, England's feudal hooker, proved the fulcrum for the front five in an enclave of the scrum where little is seen and even less said. It was somehow symptomatic of his influence that Ireland came closest to scoring in the minute that Cockerill was sidelined for treatment to a head wound.

These scars of battle prompted Cockerill to jig the length of the touchline after the decisive late try by Tim Rodber. Cockerill plainly likes the sound of his own chimes, but Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, was the loudest voice within England's dominance.

Dallaglio, who bore the brunt of criticism for England's tame showing against Scotland, stood like a lighthouse in the storm around him. He was a colossus, his leadership by deed amplifying just how Wood had fallen short for Ireland.

"I have come to learn that I take the flak when the team plays badly," he said after being voted man of the match. He savoured his switch from the flank to the back of the scrum at No 8. "In that position, you have control of the decision-making process," he said. "I felt that variety was there throughout the game, which we lacked against Scotland."

An emphatic defeat rammed home the uncomfortable fact that Ireland were outclassed at a time when equality with England seemed to beckon. Instead, France's defeat by Wales on Saturday put into perspective Ireland's last-gasp defeat by France in Dublin last month, for the French appear to be in decline.

Furthermore, Ireland's victory over Wales fits more conveniently with their successful history against that nation than any nascent parity with the might of northern hemisphere rugby. Their laboured efforts were too stereotyped, too one-dimensional, to trouble the English juggernaut.

As for the expectant Dublin hordes, the dreams and songs promised by that half-time ballad dissolved into the more familiar refrain within the lyrics of *Molly Malone*. "And cockles and mussels, alive, alive-O." They may have been alive at the end of it, but for once, they did not savour the experience.

Small screen fails to do justice to comedy of errors

I am the first person to see a joke against myself, but this goes too far ... the archetypal school teacher's words suit Formula One motor racing to a tee. Yes, Formula One is back and funnier than ever. The shame of it is that no one involved in the sport can see how funny it is.

Any sport, surely any other sport in the calendar that began with the world champions *accidentally pulling the roof* down on top of their own heads, would see that there was something faintly amusing about the business. But, no, not Formula One.

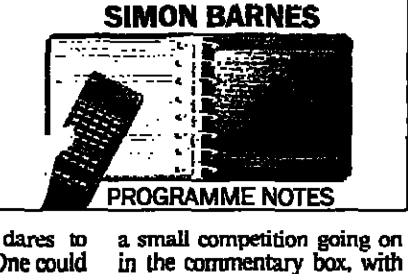
And surely television, if covering any sport other than Formula One, found itself with such hilarious footage — a car screeching out of the garage with an air hose still attached to it, *pulling down the overhead* gantry, which laid out the team boss, Ron Dennis, and two or three members of the pit crew — would have replayed it as often as a sequence of the elephant running a mock in the *Blue Peter* studio.

But no, no point. We were given a brief glimpse of this gorgeous Keystone Cop sequence and then we had a learned comment from Martin Brundle: "McLaren are very professional." It somehow didn't quite cover the situation. So he chanted on about "some slight clutch gremlin" while the roof was caving in about McLaren heads.

Oh, it was delicious stuff. And then, after the parade lap, *we had a splendid bit of synchronised* spontaneous combustion as two cars genteelly burst into clouds of smoke and had to be dragged off. And, as if that was not rich enough, Michael Schumacher stalled *his car again.*

Which is exactly what he did in the last race of last season, when he might have won the world championship, but lost his chance by stalling at the lights. Schumacher seems to have a problem with this. No one — or to be accurate, no one inside the sport of Formula One — has ever so much as suggested that the problem might be with Schumacher.





No one dares. For the same reason, no insider dares to think that Formula One could possibly be funny. And the television coverage traditionally defers to the sport's apocalyptic view of its own importance.

There were people popping in and out of garage doors as if this were an automotive version of a Feydeau farce, but no one even noticed that it was amusing.

Instead, there seemed to be a small competition going on in the commentary box, with Brundle daringly and rashly going wheel-to-wheel with Murray Walker. Frequently, the two of them were shouting contradictory things at the top of their voices at the same time: adding to, rather than sorting out the quite extraordinary confusion of the race.

In fact, the race had lost all its logic long before the start and the tangled and tortuous narrative of the race was made *still more confusing by the fast* inter-cutting from one car to the next: the policy was to fill the screen with colour and noise and damn the logic of the race.

This aspect of the coverage *was dreadful.* Meanwhile, one significant incident after another was missed: Schumacher's various charges from the back of the field, Barichello's overtaking manoeuvre — they cut away from him just a few seconds before it happened.

The theme of farce continued: Zonta failing to give way to the race leader because he apparently didn't know the rules; Schumacher cruising in for a pit stop, finding his pit crew not expecting him and so *driving on;* Villeneuve with bits of stuff falling off his car.

And, of course, the McLarens. The McLarens were expected to carry all before them, but they flopped out, one after the other. Walker ended the race in absolute ecstasies, but then he ends every race in absolute ecstasies. "And if the rest are as good as this, there is lots of excitement and drama to come."

Precisely. Not great sport, not really sport at all, but Formula One gives us plenty of excitement and drama, not excepting that dramatic form known as farce.

Formula One has become a different kind of sporting entertainment. Television is always inventing new forms — such as, for instance, the docu-soap — and if Formula One is not sport in any exacting sense of the term, it is a wonderful and intermittently *hilarious form* of television.

Yet television insists on po-faced seriousness, as if it was covering a Papal election — the same reverent gasp whenever a puff of smoke is to be seen. *That* bit when the car pulled the roof down was the funniest bit of sporting television this year. To show it only once when we get a replay every time a player punches the air was little short of criminal. Alas, we shall have to wait five weeks for the next exciting episode of sport's own docu-soap.

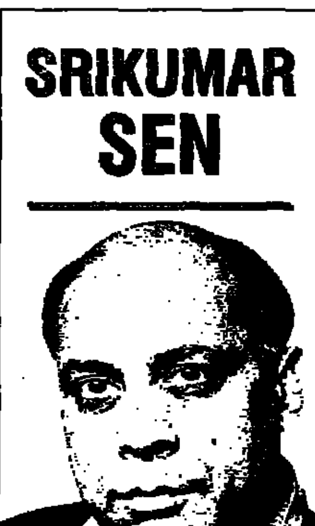
'It's a fact he'll fall in three. The world ain't run by big people; it's run by smart guys'

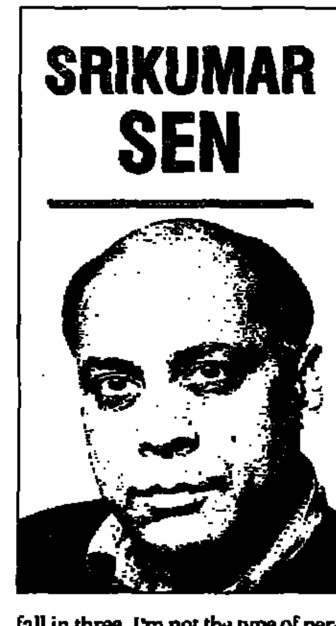
Holyfield trains in the art of pain

DAVID J. PHILLIP

Muscle man: Holyfield works out in the House of Pain, his objective to lift the unified world heavyweight crown by fulfilling his promise to knock out Lewis

SRIKUMAR SEN





If Lennox Lewis considers himself to be the toughest of Evander Holyfield's opponents, Holyfield sees Lewis as his easiest. In an interview with *The Sunday Times* last November, *Holyfield graded his opponents in* elementary mathematics terms: Riddick Bowe, the most difficult, was algebra. Lewis is not even addition. He is as simple as counting up to three, for the round in which the bout for the undisputed *world heavyweight championship* will end here in New York on Saturday, and up to ten for the knockout.

The World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation champion is as certain as his belief in God that the bout will not last beyond the third. After a 45-minute talk in his gym in Houston, Texas, known as the House of Pain, he left me despondent about the prospects of the world heavyweight title coming back to Great Britain.

Admittedly, it was only talk, but the conviction with which he held his view made you imagine, in *spite of your better judgment, that* the bout was one between man and boy. Even Holyfield's polite and relaxed manner carried a hint of menace. He said: "Talk for as long as you like. I've got all the time in the world. Because I want you *to tell the people in England* that you spoke to the Real Deal and he told you the real deal."

He denied that his vehemence was the result of Lewis calling him a hypocrite because he preached the word of God and fathered children out of wedlock, even after his latest marriage. Clearly, though, Lewis had got under Holyfield's skin, for, as he expounded on his opponent, he became more and more animated.

"It's not a forecast. It's a fact he'll fall in three. I'm not the type of person who says something he can't do," Holyfield said. "All my life I've said don't say things that will embarrass you, but as I grow old *[he is 36], I realise what I can do* and what I cannot do.

"When people say: 'Why are you stepping out?' — I say: 'Is it wrong for a man to grow?' I'm not doing it for hype, or publicity, or to get attention. I don't need these things. What Lewis said did *not affect me.* I've been eating good before Lennox. They've talked about me all my life, when I was poor and now when I'm wealthy."

Holyfield was more annoyed with Lewis's claim that, for the past two years, he had been avoiding the World Boxing Council champion. Lewis, he said, must have been aware that the contest had *not* been made because promoters and managers got in the way, not because Holyfield was ducking him. "You should not say things that can come back on you one day," Holyfield said. "Lennox overflowed himself, telling people Americans were avoiding him. He *embarrassed the whole world,* saying I ducked him.

"Now the time has come, all he can say is: 'I'm bigger than him.' Bring something more to the table, like being more skilful. The world ain't run by big people: it's run by *smart guys. The word of God says* we all have to go through our trials to become the person we are. He is coming to his trial and will he be able to say he's a man? Unfortunately, no.

"I'm not going to make it easy for him. I'm going to put it on him. He needs to be able to chalk up his defeat and tell his family it was good not to duck anybody."

It was typical of the contrary nature of boxing, he said, that while in the Land of Love, the resort in the Pocono Mountains where Lewis trains, Lewis suffered the pain of drudgery; Holyfield's House of Pain turned out to be a place of love, of God and boxing. It *was a joy for Holyfield to come to* work because it gave him the chance to pray.

Unlike most boxers, who run in the early hours and train in the evening, Holyfield works in reverse order, starting at 5.30am. *The move is a clever one because it* keeps the watchers down to a manageable number. "He doesn't like to turn people away," an admirer said.

After 30 minutes of muscle-stretching, followed by prayers, the hall reverberated to the sounds of gospel music as Holyfield went to work. "If you can incorporate prayer in everything that you do, you benefit more. So I get my confidence from God, not from my fists," he said. "I need my confidence to override what this guy's going to do to me, so I pray and pray. I place my faith in God. We *know that our thinking ability* allows our body to move and if we didn't have the spirit to think, then we wouldn't be able to do anything. My body just does what my mind tells it to and my mind is moved by the spirit of God."

Holyfield spars every other day and this was reserved only for workout. His regime for arm and leg strengthening has been scientifically worked out by Tim Hallmark, a sports medicine expert. Holyfield was strapped, body arms and ankles to a contraption that appeared to have come form the London Dungeon called a Centreforce and he was made to go through the routine of boxing against the resisting springs.

But worse was to come. First, he had to kick a medicine ball back into the hands of Hallmark, standing 15 feet away. After three rounds of "football", it was time to play catch. The medicine ball was *thrown back and forth between* him and Hallmark and, at the same time, he had to move forward throwing combinations. The exercise became more and more strenuous as the elastic bands and springs were stretched to the maximum and, still, Holyfield had to work against them.

The champion explained afterwards that the aim was to strengthen his legs and, when released from the constraints of that contraption, to find speed of action.

"I believe in being absolutely fit," he said, "because otherwise I would not be able to follow the instructions of my corner in a fight." He added that he considered his whole career as preparation for the contest, which was the most important of his life as it would enable him to retire as undisputed champion.

"I'm one of those people who has watched Lennox way before this *fight was made. I watch all the people I might have to fight one day,"* Holyfield said. "Lennox was one of the guys I watched because he was in the Olympics like me and he was a talented kid and I knew he would surface. So, I watched him a lot. I've seen all his fights and I know exactly what to expect."

Holyfield said that he owed it to boxing to leave the division a unified title when he retired. "I want to put things in order," he said. "If you clean up the kitchen and you don't do the sink, you ain't done your job and your momma is going to give you a good whipping. I don't want a whipping from my *momma, so I'm going to give it to* Lennox. When the job is over, the Lord will say: 'Well done.' "

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211
They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Missing the point

From Mr Geoff Walters

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Rob Edgerton (March 1) extolling the virtues of Messrs Farrell, Connolly, Radlinski, Robinson and Newlove. While agreeing they are quality rugby league players, I fear that he, along with many rugby union followers, misses the point.

They are good players because they have grown up playing a code that encourages running, handling and defensive skills that have been *undervalued (until recently) in* rugby union. From 1895, when the game began to evolve, administrators and lawmakers have sought to make rugby league attractive. To this end, the reduction from 15 players *to 13, the abolition of the* lineout and the addition of the play-the-ball rule have contributed.

In conclusion, the players mentioned are playing the "right" code. It is Mr Edgerton *and friends* who should change codes to a sport that rewards running, handling, tackling and kicking skills.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF WALTERS,
7 Fox Covert,
Norton Cross, Runcorn,
Cheshire WA7 6SJ.

From Mr Kim Pereira

Sir, John Hopkins's account of the Andersen Consulting Matchplay Tournament was a study in British snobbery. His suggestion that we in America do not understand matchplay is ludicrous. Would he be surprised to learn that matchplay is standard fare in thousands of *local tournaments all over* the country every year?

So some people don't understand all the rules. So what? Even the players don't understand all the rules of golf. How many of you in England can describe the lbw rule in cricket? Or a googly? Or a Chinaman (remember Sobers?)? Mr Hopkins says that cricket is a *mystery to us. Do any of you* sipping tea in the pavilion know baseball? Ever heard of the infield fly rule? What's the difference between a triple and a triple play.

Perhaps Mr Hopkins is upset *that no European made it* past the early rounds (the English players, of course, couldn't handle the "easy course" at all).

Yours sincerely,
KIM PEREIRA,
RR 20, Box 216,
Bloomington,
Illinois 61701,
United States.

From Mr Brin Hodge

Sir, Isn't it about time that the second service was abolished in first-class tennis? The odds would still be in the server's favour — particularly in the men's game — but the receiver would have more of a chance, because the server would have to weigh up the possibilities of accuracy versus speed." Whoever heard of a golfer getting a second attempt if his first tee-shot ended up in the rough?

Yours faithfully,
BRIN HODGE,
42 Windmill Avenue,
Wokingham RG41 3XD.

Service delivered with a smile

From Mr Dennis Hales

Sir, Last Sunday, while watching the men's singles final between Richard Krajicek and Greg Rusedski in the Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea, I was reminded of a first-round match in 1961 at the Palace Hotel (Torquay) covered-courts tournament in which I was drawn *against top-seeded Mike Sangster (of fond memory).* This was the year in which Mike was a semi-finalist in both the Wimbledon and the United States championships.

I lost the first set 6-1, repeatedly falling victim to Sangster's immensely powerful and accurate services. In the third game of the second set, with a grin across the net to Sangster, the score standing at 40-love, I placed a ball just inside the service court at the junction of the centre and service lines — and silently challenged Sangster to hit it.

Sangster took another ball and, like an archer at the butts, sent across a sizzling service that connected squarely with its tiny target to send it *skidding off the court. When the applause died* down, Sangster went on to take the set 6-1 for the match.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS HALES,
Beethoven,
Cheapside Lane, Denham,
Buckinghamshire UB9 5AB.

From Mr Richard Walker

Sir, As one who watches his rugby from the Crumbie Stand at Welford Road, I read the assertion, made in your pages on March 1, that Martin Johnson may be a marked man with interest but very little surprise. I am also unsurprised by the vehemence of comments by your correspondents regarding the rucking incident involving the Leicester captain in the recent Calcutta Cup match.

While not wholly subscribing to the conspiracy theories against Leicester, it is hard not to draw certain conclusions from some of the extraordinary refereeing decisions, vitriolic remarks in the press and the hypocrisy of certain players, former players and coaches in their comments aimed at our club. The only explanation can be that it is an example of the petty jealousies permeating the game in England.

However, it is not my intention to dignify those jealousies, nor to justify ourselves by addressing them. I merely wish to point out that amid the fractious back-biting, squabbling and posturing of self-serving administrators, the desperate scramble of clubs for resources to pay their excessive wage bills and the rank incompetence of irresponsible officials, one factor remains constant: the regular attendances above 10,000 at Welford Road which put to shame the kind of paltry support I experienced rattling around in the sterile, soulless Madejski Stadium last month.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WALKER,
26 West End,
Welford,
Northants NN6 6HJ.

Going on to the offensive

From Mr David Compton

Sir, I note your report ("Racial disputes blight South African cricket"). Whilst accepting that some cricketing terms might *give offence, let us hope that* the game's unique terminology should not fall prey to excessive sensitivity.

Calling fielders "short leg" or "silly mid-off" will never, I hope, cause distress to the players concerned and may the batsman whose misfortune to have been "caught pulling" is broadcast to the world by Richie Benaud receive *sympathy* and understanding from his wife when he returns home.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COMPTON,
Barn Close House,
Itchen Abbas,
Winchester SO21 1AX.

From Mr James Hopper

Sir, An event that is more than *2½* centuries old can hardly be called an eccentric new sport (report, February 25). At present, I am halfway through my Classical Civilisation GCSE course and I was intrigued to read Mr Burton Silver's claim that a long jump in which hand-held weights are used to extend the distance would be a new sport. Weights were used in the very first long jump in the Olympics of Ancient Greece. A performance of 52ft has been recorded *from the 29th Olympic Games* in 664BC, although historians believe this is exaggerated.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES HOPPER,
Sunridge,
Fairoak Lane, Sunridge,
Oxshott, Surrey KT22 OTW.

From Mr P. J. McCloskey

Sir, I don't know where Oliver Holt obtained the information that Manchester United are now clear favourites to win the European Cup. I bet that's not what the Germans, Italians, Spaniards or Ukrainians think. I'm a United fan and live *in hope, but my tip would* be Dynamo Kiev.

Yours through untinted glasses,
P. J. McCLOSKEY,
17 Elms Lane,
Wembley HA0 2NX.

From Mr L. Kingsley

Sir, From reading the Saturday "Statistics on Football Offenders" (February 27), the names of Frank Leboeuf, of Chelsea, and Gary Neville, of Manchester United, stand out. Could it be *that there is some* connection between foul play on the field and football journalism in *The Times?*

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE KINGSLEY,
7 St James' Close,
New Malden,
Surrey KT3 6DU.

This week in THE TIMES

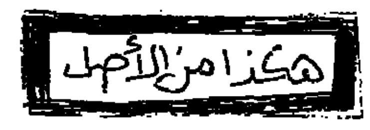


Tomorrow
Tim Henman, above, seeks to continue his *climb up the world tennis* rankings at the Champions' Cup

Wednesday
Did Arsenal close the gap on the FA Carling Premiership *leaders* when they played Sheffield Wednesday?

Thursday
Who triumphed when Manchester United and Chelsea renewed their FA Cup tussle at Stamford Bridge?

Saturday
Comprehensive guide to the weekend's football, with top columnists Danny Baker, Alyson *Rudd and Frank Leboeuf*



Orr steals in as Wakefield falter

Castleford Tigers 12
Wakefield Trinity Wildcats.. 10

BY MARTIN RICHARDS

WAKEFIELD had hoped for a morale-boosting victory in their first outing in the JJB Super League, but such dreams were crushed in cruel fashion when Danny Orr, the Castleford stand-off half, kicked two late penalty goals.

Andy Kelly, the Wakefield coach, has assembled a squad who are prepared to fight for every inch of ground and they adapted to the deteriorating conditions better than their opponents. However, they were to be undone by two lapses in the final three minutes.

A try by Kevin Crouthers in the 57th minute had put them two points clear and when Dean Sampson, Castleford's Great Britain forward, was sent off with ten minutes left for punching, a first win for ten years over their neighbours was on.

Then the superior kicking game of Castleford came to the rescue. Orr, who had missed two first-half penalties, levelled the scores with three minutes left after Tony Kemp, the Wakefield captain, had been penalised. When Brad Davis, Orr's half-back partner, had a dropped goal attempt charged down, the ball fell to Shane Kenward, the Wakefield stand-off, in an offside position. Orr stepped up to convert and the final hooter sounded.

Willie Poching, Trinity's Western Samoan forward, gave the Wildcats the lead in the 21st minute when he picked up a wayward pass to charge through for a try. Castleford replied through a try by Francis Maloney.

Andy Hodgson, the Wakefield full back, levelled the scores with a penalty, but Orr restored Castleford's lead seven minutes into the second half after Poching had been pulled up for interference.

SCORERS: Castleford Tigers: Try: Maloney. Goals: Orr (4). Wakefield Trinity Wildcats: Tries: Poching, Crouthers. Goal: Hodgson.
CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J Flowers; R Gay, F Maloney, M Eager, D Rogers; D Orr, B Davis; N Sykes, A Raper, D Sampson, L Harland, D Fritz, A Vowles. Substitutes: J Pickering, I Tonks, G Tallec, J Wells.
WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS: A Hodgson; [illegible], K Crouthers, M [illegible]; S Kenward, [illegible]; F Stephenson, [illegible] Southernwood, A Fisher, G Price, W Poching, T Kemp. Substitutes: A Hughes, W McDonald, F Watene, G Law.
Referee: K Kirkpatrick (Warrington).



Parramatta and Newcastle provided the fireworks on the pitch before a world record rugby league attendance on Saturday when Sydney's new Olympic stadium played host to two National Rugby League fixtures. Watched by 104,583 fans, Parramatta beat the newly-merged St George-Illawarra 20-10. Earlier, the crowd had seen Newcastle score seven tries to beat Manly 41-18 as Stadium Australia staged its first sporting event in the lead up to the 2000 Olympic Games.

Record for Offiah is clouded by tragic loss

London Broncos............ 24
Huddersfield Giants.......... 18

BY DAVID LAWRENSON

MARTIN OFFIAH, the London Broncos wing, confessed to having mixed emotions when he touched down late in the game to become the highest English try-scorer in rugby league history. His 447th try won the game for the Broncos in their JJB Super League opener at the Stoop Memorial Ground, but Offiah had been given the option of missing the game altogether, after the death of his father in Nigeria.

"For me, playing was the only option," Offiah said. "Normally, it's when you're doing nothing that things go through your head." Commenting on his try seven minutes from time, Offiah added: "I almost burst into tears. I didn't know whether to be happy or sad."

His try proved to be crucial as the Huddersfield Giants came storming back with only two points separating the teams going into the final quarter. They looked to be in trouble when the Broncos led 20-8 three minutes into the second half, but a try from Andy Cheetham, his second of the game, and another from Craig Weston hauled them back.

Cheetham had opened the scoring after six minutes, when he latched on to a diagonal kick from Bobbie Goulding, but London pulled away to a 14-4 lead, rattling up 12 points in eight minutes.

Goulding put his side back in the hunt with two penalties before half-time, but an early try in the second half, from Karle Hammond, after a superb break by Peter Gill, put them 12 points clear. Huddersfield stuck to their task and might well have snatched victory, but for Offiah's late score.

SCORERS: London Broncos: Tries: Tollett, Fleming, Hammond, Offiah. Conversions: Warton (3). Penalty: Warton. Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Cheetham (2), Weston. Conversion: Goulding. Penalties: Goulding (2).
LONDON BRONCOS: T Tollett; B Warton, G Fleming, J Timu, M Offiah; K Hammond, S Edwards; G Young, R Beazley, R Ratchless, M Toshack, D Bradstreet, P Gill. Substitutes used: C Ryan, R Simpson.
HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS: D Arnold; P Cook, J Lenihan, P Loughlin, A Cheetham; C Weston, B Goulding; I Pickavance, D Russell, B Richards, D Boughton, M Sturm, A Tangata-Toa. Substitutes used: J Berry, D King, N Fozzard, J Bunyan.
Referee: S Ganson (St Helens).

Paul inspires Bradford

Bradford Bulls 18
Sheffield Eagles.................. 6

BY PETER WILSON

BRADFORD'S belief that they have the strength to regain the JJB Super League championship will, no doubt, face sterner tests than this one. When that day comes, they will have to make far more use of possession than they managed in the rain at Odsal yesterday.

It was remarkable that such a one-sided contest was not effectively settled until ten minutes before the final hooter, when Henry Paul set up the chance for Michael Withers, on as a substitute, to score Bradford's third and decisive try.

It was the appearance of Paul, linking up with his younger brother, Robbie, at half back, that provided the highlight of a miserable afternoon. The partnership, established by the signing of Henry Paul from Wigan Warriors during the close season, will obviously be far more effective in better conditions.

In the meantime, Paul Sr has established himself as a favourite among the Bradford supporters. More than 12,000 turned up yesterday to welcome the new Super League season and although there was little in the way of skilful, sweeping rugby, they went home satisfied.

Sheffield struck the first blow in the third minute, thanks to a smart piece of play from Aston, their scrum half, and a slice of good fortune. Aston's short kick bounced off the posts into the path of the supporting Watson, who gave the Eagles the lead.

Aston added the conversion, but the early breakthrough offered only false hopes for the Eagles. Henry Paul's first goal after 12 minutes was quickly followed by Bradford's opening try from James Lowes, the hooker, who plunged in from a yard out while the Eagles were regrouping.

Six minutes into the second half, Nathan McAvoy finished off a slick move to stretch the lead to six points and, ten minutes from the end, Withers added the final touchdown.

SCORERS: Bradford Bulls: Tries: Lowes, McAvoy, Withers. Goals: H Paul (3). Sheffield Eagles: Try: Watson. Goal: Aston.
BRADFORD BULLS: S Spruce, T Vaikona, S Naylor, D Peacock, N McAvoy, H Paul, R Paul, N Harmon, J Lowes, S Fielden, B Dwyer, D Boyle, M Forshaw. Substitutes: D Donougher, N Zisti, P Anderson, M Withers.
SHEFFIELD EAGLES: W Sovatabua, K Lovell, D Powell, K Senior, B Sodje, D Watson, M Aston, S Molloy, J Lawless, D Lawton, J Hardy, D Shaw, R Doyle; Substitutes: S Baldwin, M Pearson, R Wright, M Jackson.
Referee: G Shaw (Wigan).

Long ices St Helens cake

Salford Reds 12
St Helens.......................... 30

BY A CORRESPONDENT

TWO length-of-the-field tries in the second half, both finished off from 45 metres by Sean Long, broke Salford at The Willows yesterday, but it was the St Helens defence that laid the foundations for a hard-earned, if ultimately straightforward, victory.

Salford's total domination of the first half and a fair part of the second was never reflected in the scoreline, for they were frustrated by fierce tackling.

Long completed his hat-trick in the space of 21 minutes, when he wriggled his way over four minutes from the end. Even then, St Helens were not done and Paul Sculthorpe benefited when Tommy Martyn's grub-kick, which appeared to be covered, rebounded off a post into his arms.

Salford's collective role as spectators when first Kevin Iro and then Paul Atcheson counter-attacked from their own line to give Long his first two tries hardly suggested sound defensive organisation, but, ironically, it was St Helens's great strength. It had to be good as Salford, using the kicking game to great effect, forced them to drop out from beneath their own posts seven times within the first 13 minutes.

Not content with mere survival, however, St Helens opened the scoring after 16 minutes when Iro broke clear and sent Paul Newlove over. Although Joey Hayes answered within six minutes when Salford finally moved the ball wide, he was badly at fault in missing Newlove as the Great Britain centre dazzled Garren Casey with an outrageous dummy to score his second try.

Martin Crompton also displayed sleight of hand in claiming the second Salford try, converted by Steve Blakeley, but Long levelled the scores with the final kick of the first half. Another Blakeley penalty, early in the second half, gave Salford the lead again, but then the pendulum swung in favour of St Helens.

SCORERS: Salford Reds: Tries: Hayes, Crompton. Goals: Blakeley (2). St Helens: Tries: Newlove (2), Long (3), Sculthorpe. Goals: Long (3).
SALFORD REDS: G Broadbent; J Hayes, B Thompson, G Casey, P Carige; S Blakeley, M Crompton; N Baynes, M Alker, P Southern, H Smith, D Brown, D Hulme. Substitutes: C Briggs, S Martin, P Highton, J Saimalo.
ST HELENS: P Atcheson; T Stewart, K Iro, P Newlove, F Tuilagi; T Martyn, S Long; V Matautia, P Wellens, J O'Neill, A Perelini, P Davidson, P Sculthorpe. Substitutes: S Barrow, M Edmondson, T Jonkers, P Adamson.
Referee: S Presley (Castleford).

Warrington defy late onslaught

Halifax Blue Sox 14
Warrington Wolves.............. 16

BY A CORRESPONDENT

WARRINGTON Wolves slithered their way to an opening-day success in the mud at The Shay yesterday. With incessant rain, coupled with an icy wind, good rugby was always going to be at a premium, but Warrington defied the elements and a ferocious late onslaught by Halifax Blue Sox to get their JJB Super League campaign off to the perfect start.

Despite playing into a gale in the first half, they turned round 12-8 in front and never looked back. For their part, Halifax must be thoroughly sick of the sight of Warrington, who eliminated them from the Challenge Cup seven days ago.

Graham Holroyd gave Halifax the lead in the fifth minute with a penalty. Steve McCurrie put the Wolves on the board as he slid over from ten yards after being fed by Simon Gillies two minutes later. Lee Briers converted for the first of his two successful kicks from three attempts.

Holroyd missed a kickable penalty and Des Clark had a try ruled out as Halifax tried to fight back and they did level through Martin Moana after 20 minutes. Holroyd edged them into the lead with a 33rd-minute penalty, but Toa Koa-Love struck just before half-time to put the Wolves in command.

The conditions were much worse after the break, but Warrington made light of them as Lee Penny, who finished the match with a broken thumb, plunged over after excellent work from Briers.

That gave them a 16-8 advantage and, for all Halifax's late attack, there was no way back, although Holroyd — who had a generally terrible day with the boot — kicked a penalty.

Nick Pinkney dived into the corner with ten minutes left to make it 14-16 and Holroyd was unlucky as his touchline conversion rebounded off a post.

Darryl van der Velde, the Warrington coach, was disappointed with his team's performance, despite the victory. "The elements played a massive part in the game and probably ruined it as a spectacle," he said, "but we didn't do a lot of the basics to an acceptable standard. We go to Bradford in the cup next week and if we play like that, we'll lose."

SCORERS: Halifax Blue Sox: Tries: Moana, Pinkney. Goals: Holroyd (3). Warrington Wolves: Tries: Kohe-Love, McCurrie, Penny. Goals: Briers (2).
HALIFAX BLUE SOX: D Cardiss, D Gibson, J Bloem, M Moana, D Bouveng, G Holroyd, G Clinch, P Broadbent, P Rowley, K Skerrett, G Mercer, D Clark, C Chester. Substitutes: C Gillespie, N Pinkney, A Craig, R Marshall.
WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny, J Roach, T Kohe-Love, A Hunte, M Forster, S Wilson, L Briers, M Hilton, D Farrar, D Nutley, S Gillies, S McCurrie, J Roper. Substitutes: D Hanger, G Chambers, M Wainwright, I Knott.
Referee: S Nicholson (Castleford).

Lynx add to victory

TWO converted tries in the final 11 minutes, from Phil Jones and Joe Walsh, gave Lancashire Lynx a 22-12 over Dewsbury in the Northern Ford Premiership.

Jones, who had already scored the game's first try after nine minutes, touched down in the 69th minute, with Walsh following him over five minutes later to seal Lynx's second league win.

Two tries in nine minutes either side of the half-time interval, plus three goals from Mike Fletcher, gave Hunslet a 14-8 win at Batley, while York pulled off a tremendous 10-8 win away to Keighley, after trailing 8-4 at the break. Jamie Benn finished a smart move to level the scores and his subsequent conversion proved to be crucial, adding the match-winning points.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

CHANTGIFT LIMITED T/A QUEENS HOTEL / WILLOWS HOTEL / ROBIN HOOD HOTEL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields London WC2A 3JX on 1st April 1999 at 11.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 (2)(A) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Jamie Taylor of Messrs. Begbies Traynor (Incorporating Taylor Gotham & Fry), The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Resolutions to be taken at the aforementioned meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated. The meeting may also receive information about or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening the meeting.
Dated the 1st March 1999
[illegible]
Director

Company Number 3118342
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
TRACKLINE (UK) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors will be held at Hotel Ibis, Ladywell Walk, Birmingham B5 4ST on 11 March 1999 at 2.30 pm for the purpose of having a statement of the company's affairs laid before them, and for the purpose, if thought fit, of nominating a liquidator and of appointing a liquidation committee.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge a proxy, together with a statement of their debt, at the offices of Robson Rhodes, Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4UU not later than 12.00 hours noon on 10 March 1999.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at the offices of Robson Rhodes, Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4UU on 9 March 1999 and 10 March 1999 between the hours of 10.00 and 16.00 hours.
Date 1 March 1999
J Bonello
Director

REDMAN MECHANICAL + ELECTRICAL SERVICES LIMITED
Registered number: 02210435
[illegible]

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
[illegible] Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Stephen Conn & Co, 2nd Floor, 17 St Ann's Square, Manchester, M2 7PW on 12th March 1999 at 3.00 pm for the purposes provided for in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. [illegible]
Dated 1st March 1999
G FINNERAN
Director

FG FINCH LIMITED
FINCH (GB) LIMITED
LDA HOMES LIMITED
PARK JOINERY LIMITED
Registered numbers: 00744189, 02375129, 02146157, 02280768 respectively
Nature of business: General Construction & Civil Engineering. [illegible]

[illegible]
(D) Any creditor of the Company may apply to the High Court under sections 176 and 177 of the Companies Act 1985 within the period of five weeks immediately following 2 March 1999 for an Order prohibiting the payment.
Date: 8 March 1999

[illegible]
The Parade, High Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 1NS is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the company. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Finn Associates, 135 The Parade, High Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 1NS on the two business days preceding the meeting of creditors.
By Order of the Board
Paul Michael Kirby, Director

TENNIS

Schnyder searches for solace

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS

FOR once in her life, Martina Hingis is happy to be in the shadow of someone else. As the Evert Cup moves slowly but surely into the second and third rounds — Hingis took her appointed place with a relatively simple 6-3, 6-4 win over Alexandra Stevenson, of the United States — all eyes were upon Patty Schnyder. The pretender to Hingis's throne as Swiss No 1, Schnyder's every footstep has been dogged by television crews and bevies of reporters ever since she joined forces, both on and off the court, with Rainer Harnecker.

Harnecker's influence over the 20-year-old Schnyder has increased steadily since the two met last December. He began as an adviser, is now her boyfriend and since he has been travelling with her on the tour, their relationship has systematically alienated her family, her friends and her colleagues in the game. At the same time, her form has fallen almost as fast as her weight — Harnecker has instituted a new vegan diet for Schnyder that includes her drinking two litres of orange juice a day.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, Schnyder just about got through her first-round match against Tamarine Tanasugarn, a woman who appears to do most of her training at the dinner table, and then claimed that at last she was rediscovering her game. "Last month, I spent more time talking to the press than on the practice court," she said. "It has to stop now. Everyone has to let me play tennis. I want to work."

Unfortunately for Schnyder, she has no one to work with. She fired her coach of three years, Eric van Harpen, after the Australian Open and then, at the beginning of last week, hired Vito Gugolz. He had worked with Schnyder when she was a junior and again before she teamed up with Van Harpen and has been one of Schnyder's close friends for the past ten years. Gugolz flew into Indian Wells on Tuesday and, just four practice sessions later, was fired on Thursday, a decision that left Schnyder in floods of tears. Then again, since the arrival of Harnecker, any connection with Schnyder's past has been severed and she appears tentative on court and distinctly edgy off it.

She must now play Alicia Molik, a qualifier from Australia, and, in her present state, that could prove tricky. Should she win, Hingis lies in wait for her. Hingis usually has an opinion on most things — just ask Amelie Mauresmo — but about this she is awfully quiet. "It's her private business and it's not something I can discuss," Hingis said. Private or not, the WTA Tour is keeping a watching brief on the whole affair and, should Harnecker do anything untoward, it is ready to act.

Elsewhere, it was business as usual. Monica Seles grunted to victory over Elena Likhovtseva 7-6, 6-2 and a flu-ridden Anna Kournikova ran out of puff to lose 7-6, 1-6, 7-5 to Silvia Farina. It was Kournikova's forehand that sprayed errors around the court.

Today, the attention will fall on the men for the start of the Newsweek Champions Cup. The draw did British hopes few favours, placing Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in the same quarter. They are scheduled to meet in the third round, with the winner due to meet Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals.

Henman is keen to renew their doubles partnership prior to the Davis Cup-tie next month, but Rusedski, with a runner's-up spot to defend this week, has more on his mind and is delaying a decision.



Boardman is flanked by O'Grady, left, and Vandenbroucke after winning the opening time-trial of the Paris-Nice. Photograph: Laurent Rebours

Boardman beats the clock again

Jeremy Whittle finds the British cyclist in pragmatic mood as the hills approach

CHRIS BOARDMAN earned his first significant win since the 1998 Tour de France prologue with victory in the opening time-trial of the week-long Paris-Nice stage race in Boulogne-Billancourt yesterday.

"I knew that this was primarily a flat course," Boardman, who now leads the race overall, said. "It was well suited to me, so victory here became my first objective of the year."

The Great Britain cyclist won by 2sec from Stuart O'Grady, of Australia, his team-mate, and by 6sec from Franck Vandenbroucke, of Belgium, the defending champion. However, with several mountainous stages still to come as the race heads south to the Cote d'Azur, Boardman is being realistic.

"I've had only six days of racing this year, so I'd say that I have only an outside chance of still leading the race by the time we get down to the southern Alps," he said.

While Boardman added another time-trial win to his long list of victories against the clock, most attention focused on the return to French racing of Richard Virenque, the former leader of the Festina team, who was expelled from the Tour de France last year after a doping scandal.

Virenque, who has consistently protested his innocence since then, was set to retire from the sport last winter. Then, however, Polti, the Italian team, came in with an eleventh-hour offer to rescue the popular Frenchman's faltering career and Virenque is now rebuilding his fitness with the 1999 Tour as his principal objective.

Despite the presence of Boardman, O'Grady and Virenque, the most likely contenders for final victory are Vandenbroucke and Lance Armstrong, a former cancer sufferer, from Texas.

Both riders have enjoyed mixed fortunes this spring. Vandenbroucke has suffered the loss of a cousin in a car crash and is missing the services of Nico Mattan, his valued team-mate, who has been sidelined with a heart murmur. In spite of those shocks, Vandenbroucke has already won three leading races this spring and seen his wife give birth to the couple's first child.

Armstrong had begun the season well, until he dislocated his shoulder while racing in Spain a fortnight ago. Despite that setback, he is determined to be competitive and is relishing the challenge of the key stage next Saturday, a gruelling climb to the summit finish at the Alpine ski resort of Valberg.

In Spain, Marco Pantani, the Tour de France champion, has picked up where he left off last year, winning the five-day Tour of Murcia after an explosive lone attack on the hilly penultimate stage. Although Pantani is insisting that he may not defend his Tour de France title this summer, blaming the blandness of the 1999 Tour route and its lack of mountains for his reluctance, the diminutive Italian is widely expected to change his mind, once he has completed the Tour of Italy in June.

The immediate future of two other leading riders remains more deeply in doubt. Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour de France winner, is enduring another of his characteristically wobbly periods, despite having trained hard all winter to avoid a repetition of his poor form of 1998, while French national Laurent Jalabert, of France, has yet to race on home turf this season.

Ullrich, 25, is already suffering from exhaustion after a bout of flu and a wisdom tooth operation, which is forcing him to delay his competive return, while Jalabert and ONCE, his Spanish team, still embroiled in a tetchy battle with the French authorities after their walkout at the Tour last summer, seem to be reluctant to cross the French border.

The dust from the doping scandals of nine months ago has still to settle, but the organisers of Paris-Nice, hit by a fall in sponsorship after the revelations, are fervently hoping that the 66th Race to the Sun will arrive unsullied on the Mediterranean coast next weekend.

ROWING

Oxford make a rapid start

BY MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD and Cambridge Universities outclassed opposition in private races on the Tideway yesterday.

Oxford, competing against Tideway Scullers in two races between Putney and Hammersmith, showed remarkable speed out of the blocks and the Scullers, albeit with two substitutes on board, were a length down in 46sec in the first contest.

Oxford then powered on, generally at 34 strokes a minute, to lead by five lengths at the mile and, although they then dropped the rate to 32, they held a similar margin at the finish.

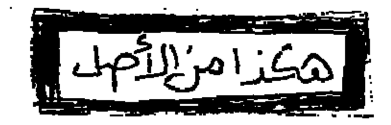
The Scullers were livelier off the start in the second race and Oxford did not clear them until 1min 48sec, but the winning margin was again some five lengths at the mile and the finish.

The Cambridge opponents, a London RC lightweight crew, held on to the Light Blues for rather longer in their two rows. In the first, from Putney to Hammersmith, Cambridge took three minutes to gain one length, then, in spite of warnings to Vian Sharif, their coxwain, opened a margin of four lengths by Hammersmith. The second race saw Cambridge win, again with some warnings, by 2½ lengths.

Cambridge were timed unofficially as around 5sec faster than Oxford, but they kept their rate higher from the mile. Both crews have power, but Oxford, at the moment, are using it with more tidiness.

Isis, the Oxford reserve crew, were second at the Reading Head on Saturday behind Oxford Brookes, who retained their title.

The event was in doubt until six hours before the start, when the river authority removed flood warnings and 73 of the scheduled 102 crews were allowed to race.



GOLF

Moment of magic helps Phillips tie up victory

FROM MEL WEBB IN PENINA, PORTUGAL

THERE was a time when Van Phillips was, slightly insultingly but brutally honestly, *best known for the splendidly* trivial fact that he wore a tie on the golf course. Yesterday, he finally cast aside the noose around his neck and became famous for something else when he won the Algarve Portuguese Open at the first *hole of a play-off against John* Bickerton.

Phillips, 26, and Bickerton, 29, could not be separated at the top of the leaderboard after 54 holes and, after matching 68s, they were still locked together on 276, 12 under par, at the end of 72. They had long since been the only combatants for the title, Robert Karlsson, Alexander Cejka and Santiago Luña all having finished *three strokes behind.*

They presented a striking contrast in height and physique: *Phillips 5ft 7in* and 11st, Bickerton 5in taller and 3st heavier. It was a classic catchweight contest and this time the good little 'un beat the good big 'un.

Bickerton led by a shot on the 17th tee, but the portents were not good. He had bogeyed the hole during the *third round on Saturday* and remained consistent by doing so again. Three holes earlier, he had led by two strokes and now he was level; he was *never to lead again.*

The shot that won the tournament for Phillips was his second at the 18th hole. He pulled his tee-shot behind trees and was *left with his feet* on a cartpath that gave him as much grip as carpet slippers on an ice rink, behind trees, 200 yards from the pin, with Bickerton in the middle of the fairway. Calamity loomed: the way in which he averted it was little short of sorcery.

He declined to take relief *from ground under repair* since to have done so would have pushed him farther behind the timber. Instead, he played a huge cut shot that bent 30 yards and finished up 30ft from the hole. Two putts later, he was in for a birdie four.

Bickerton's thoughts as he watched Phillips's recovery can only be imagined — he had played the hole virtually *perfectly and had ended up no* better off than his opponent. At such moments are golf tournaments won and lost.

Bickerton could not have helped but quake a little as he returned to the 17th for the play-off. There was a sequence *that absolutely had to be* broken if he were to remain in the contest. And he did not to break it, flopping a 20-yard chip feebly into a bunker after *missing the green in two.* Phillips, meanwhile, lagged up to 2ft and holed the second putt. *Bickerton had to hole his bun*ker shot to keep the piece alive, and failed. Of course he did; his bogey hole had once again proved to be his bogey hole.

Phillips, who won a point for Great Britain and Ireland when they were trounced 19-5 by the United States in the Walker Cup in 1993, thus *picked up 93,320 Euros,* which, for those who prefer their currency in real money, converts to about £66,650 — the biggest prize of his career.

It was quite a moment for him, but one that was not, apparently, enhanced by the fact that he had won on a course that had been designed *by Sir Henry Cotton, patri*arch of Penina. "I can't say it had any effect on me at all," he said with blissful insouciance. "He designed a good golf course and that's as far as it goes for me." Oh dear.

Scores 40


Phillips concentrates on his way to victory in the Portuguese Open yesterday

Position in driving seat eludes worried Bjorn

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN MIAMI

THOMAS BJORN was at a loose end yesterday. Although he had completed his fourth round at the Doral-Ryder Open, finishing four over par, Greg Kraft, Ernie Els and Glen Day, the three leaders, had not yet begun their final rounds and David Toms had moved to 11 under par by ea*gling the first two holes, a par*-five and a par-four, and then producing a birdie at the 3rd.

Bjorn was at a loss to know how to get to Coral Springs, *30 minutes' drive from here,* where the Honda Classic takes place this week. He had been lent a car for the duration of the tournament, but *that had been taken from him.*

In Europe, the solution would have been simple. Bjorn would have been given a ride in the courtesy cars that *ferry players from their hotels* to the course and back again and to and from airports. Here, Bjorn was on his own. In the end, he took a taxi for the 15-mile journey. This was another demonstration of the differences between the United States and European tours.

Bjorn, though a Ryder Cup player in 1997 and a likely starter this year, is a newcomer in terms of major champi*onships. He has* competed in only seven championships in his competitive career, four of them in the United States.

He will compete in his *eighth when he makes his de*but at the Masters in four weeks' time, the result of being in the top 50 players at the end of last year. Bjorn's form, *therefore, is of some concern* to him.

He dismissed his golf last week with one word. "Rubbish," he said. It was his fifth *event of the year, his second in* the United States and his first strokeplay event on this continent. "Put Thomas on a typical course in Europe and he will hole putts from all over the place," Martin Gray, his caddie, said, "but over here he can't seem to read the greens at all. Even his *shots* into the green *have* to take into account whether they are down grain or against the grain."

Bjorn took 117 putts in his four rounds, which is an acceptable total. Less acceptable was the fact that he reached only 43 of the 72 greens in the required number of strokes.

Patrik Sjoland started steadily and unspectacularly in his attempt to finish among the *top five, a result that he had* been told would be good enough to earn him sufficient points to climb one place in the world rankings — to *No 50 — and so gain an invita*tion to the Masters.

Sjoland, four under par at the start of his round, dropped one stroke on the 2nd hole. *That seemed to galvanise* him. He birdied the 5th and then rounded out his homeward half with a spectacular run of three successive birdies *to move to seven under par,* with nine holes remaining.

Price proves that the nice guys can win

JOHN HOPKINS

The helicopter rose slowly, its rotors spinning furiously, dipped its nose and *wobbled into the Florida sky.* The symbol N407 NP on the green fuselage denoted it belonged to Nick Price, who was sitting in the co-pilot's seat.

Nick Price, the nicest man in golf, was going home.

But there's the rub. Where is the heart of the man *who was* born in South Africa of an English mother *now* resident in Norfolk, grew up in Zimbabwe, who follows cricket and rugby *throughout the world,* whose nephew bowled Sachin Tendulkar when Zimbabwe A played India recently and now lives in Florida?

"My real home will always be Zimbabwe and I don't want to lose that identity," Price said. "*I love Zimbabwe.* But because my kids are growing up in America, this is my home now. I could *not* go back and live in Zimbabwe for the next 15 years because I want my kids to have the best possible education, but I think in time I *would be able to spend half the year there and half the year here.* Maybe if things were very stable in the future, I'd probably go back there full time."

What is happening in Zimbabwe is hurting Price deeply and, *in a gesture of help, he* has donated his earnings from three Presidents' Cup tournaments to children's centres and orphanages in that country.

"It is the most depressing thing," he said. "They are having a tough time surviving. I phone home three or four times each week and there are things going on there that sadden me. Unless something happens, the country will be bankrupt soon. The Government needs to create a new infrastructure because the one that we've got is not working."

*Price is working, on the oth*er hand. He is flying high again after a fallow period that followed his stellar years in the early Nineties, when he *won three major champion*ships and the Players Championship in a dazzling 23-month spell. In both the 1997 and 1998 seasons, he won more than $1 *million (about £625,000)* and his 15 victories on the US PGA Tour in the Nineties was three more than any other player.

Price is aware that good *times are just down the next* fairway and, as he tells you this, his piercing blue eyes gleam, *his voice throbs with ex*citement and you cannot help but feel swept up by his enthusiasm.

"I wish I could stop everything because I *am enjoying* life so much now," he said. "I feel at last I have all the ducks in a row. The children are in the right school. Everyone has their health. I sometimes think I would like to be this age for ever."

'I wish it could all stop now because I'm enjoying life so much'

He was 42 a little over one month ago. He looks too *young to be described as old,* too old to be called young. His grieving at the death from leukaemia of Squeaky Medlen, his long-time caddie, has ended and, *after four years and a* huge capital outlay, he, Sue, his wife, and their three children are happily settled in their dream house on Jupiter Island (Greg Norman is a neighbour) near Palm Beach.

"A few years ago my wife *and I had a vision of what* we wanted our house and our life to be like and we have worked really hard to get to where we are now. The vision was to have space for all of us where we can do the things we want to do — fish and spend holidays *together as a family,* be in the sun, have good weather. I always felt a happy family is a healthy family and if there is no stress and no aggro and you take care of the kids, they will take care of you."

Price has a high regard for the way *in which he was* brought up and has tried to instil many of the same values in his own children.

"I am conscious it might be *difficult for them,* being the children of a rich father," he says. "My son knows we are rich. His friends see the money that we make in the papers. He'll get over that. It is up to me to try to explain to him that the money we make is a by-product of doing something I love doing very well.

"This is what he has to understand, not that I play for the money, because, when I *started playing golf, I was just* trying to make a living at the game. When he gets older and we go out in a fishing boat together, I'll be able to tell him: *'This is how it happened.'* "

Price's assistants started circling, reminding one of how rich and successful is the man ranked No 9 in the world of *golf. One handed him* a cigarette, which he smoked surreptitiously. Another brought him a pair of cycling shoes complete with rubber-studded *soles* and took his golf *shoes* from him as he changed out of them. Then he climbed into the co-pilot's seat and began studying the controls.

Nick Price, *the nicest man* in golf, was heading home.

Farah puts language to good use

John Goodbody watches the next generation of British athletes shine in the mud



ONE of the most heartening sights in sport on Saturday was at the English Schools Cross Country Championships, *where rain, sleet, snow,* mud and a chill wind were defied with admirable fortitude. And that was just by the officials and spectators.

For many of the 2,000 competitors, the experience on the hills of Stopsley Park, Luton must have been a searing one. Yet, over the past 40 years, this event is where international stars have been nurtured. Peter Elliot, Eamonn Martin, Ju*lian Goater, Paula Radcliffe* and Christina Boxer have won titles, while Seb Coe, David Moorcroft and Steve Cram have all been prominent.

Cram remembers the significance of the championships in which he finished *third* in 1975, terming it a "good rehearsal" for events such as the Commonwealth and Olympic Games. "We were away from home, possibly for the first time, put into a strange environment with people you haven't run against, which is what you go through in a major championship."

One runner who showed the potential on Saturday to make *an impact as an adult was Mo*hammed Farah, 15, from Feltham Community School, Middlesex, who skimmed over the cloying surface to take the intermediate 6,500 metres title in 21min 22sec, nearly a minute clear of his Abdi Ali, his Middlesex team-mate.

The winner of the junior title two years ago, he has run 3,000 metres on the track in 8min 33sec and has both pace and stamina allied to a smooth style. Farah came to Great Britain from his native Somalia in 1993 and, for a while, always finished second because he had to track a front-runner as he could not understand the *directions from the course mar*shals. Now he speaks English fluently and is making everyone else follow him.

Alan Watkinson, his PE teacher, said: "He has learnt most of his English from athletics. The sport has given him *great self esteem.*"

Farah has told Alex McGee, his coach at Hounslow AC, that he wants to cut 20sec off his 3,000 metres time this year, which would be extraordinary. However, McGee said: "His attitude to training *has changed recently because* we have some other boys of real quality coming into the training group and they have pushed him."

Steven Vernon, 18, of Ridge *Danyers College, Greater* Manchester, took the senior boys' 8,000 metres title, drifting away from Christopher Bolt, of Berkshire, who had *been running alongside him* at the start of a long third loop. Vernon used to suffer from a series of viruses, but he has been in good health since having his tonsils removed last year.

Had he been tempted during his troubles to give up the *sport? "I thought about it, but,* once you've got the bug for running, you keep at it," he said.

So has Courtney Birch, 14, from Millfield School, Somerset. She was second in the 1998 national age group swimming championships for the 400 metres *individual medley, but* she went one better on Saturday as she won the junior girls 3,500 metres title. Another notable win came from Hatie Dean, *of St Helen's and St* Katherine's School, Oxfordshire, who beat a cluster of talented *senior girls in the 4,500* metres race.

HOCKEY: HIGHTOWN RECOVER TWICE TO SECURE LAST PLAY-OFF POSITION

Ipswich humbled by Cullen performance

THREE goals by Tina Cullen, the England and Great Britain striker, *helped Hightown* to come from behind twice to beat Ipswich, the leaders, and secure the fourth and last place alongside Slough, Ips*wich and Clifton in the Wom*en's National League premier division play-offs (Cathy Harris writes).

Cullen's treble, including *the winner two minutes from* time, was in response to two goals by Sarah Bamfield and took her tally to 18 for the season, showing why she is not *only the league's leading goal*scorer but the all-time overall marksman in the league.

While the Merseyside team were making sure of their spot *in the top four, several other* important fixtures involving clubs anxious for their futures were postponed because of snow-covered pitches. Sutton Coldfield and Doncaster, who *are struggling at the foot of the* table, were among those affected, as were Loughborough Students, who faced a crucial game against Bradford.

After the postponed match away to Doncaster on Saturday, Slough took a step closer to finishing ahead of Ipswich in pole position in the table af*ter Fiona Greenham* and Karen Brown, their internationals, scored a goal in each half in their 2-1 victory over Clifton yesterday to put them *level on points with the Suffolk* club.

In wet, windy and cold conditions, neither team produced a vintage performance, with *Slough going 2-0 ahead before* Denise Marston-Smith reduced the deficit in the last minute.

Late goal by Simons rescues Southgate

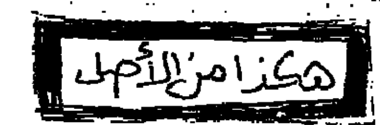
SOUTHGATE recovered twice at home yesterday to *share four goals with Can*nock, the current National League premier division champions (Sydney Friskin writes). The game was marred by bad *weather that made playing* conditions difficult and may have accounted for Cannock's lapses in front of goal.

If Sharpe had hit the target *midway through the second* half, Cannock would have gone 3-1 ahead. Instead, Southgate shared the points with a well-taken goal by Simons *with only four minutes left.*

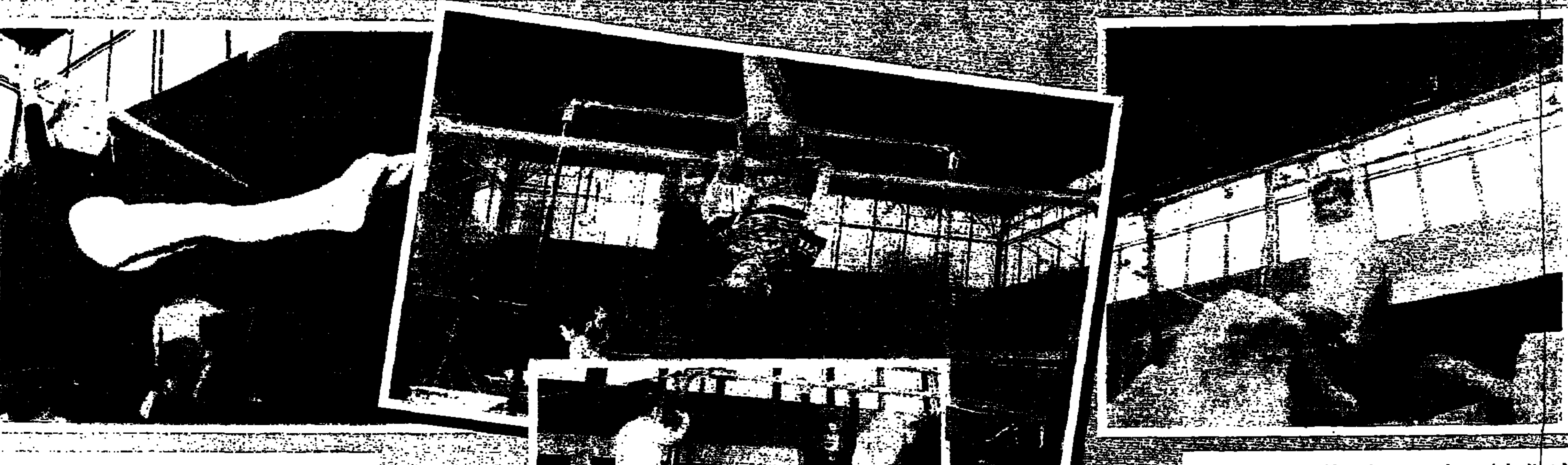
The lead that Edwards had given Cannock from a short corner in the 23rd minute was cancelled out by Shaw nine *minutes before half-time, only* for Mayer to restore Cannock's advantage off the rebound from another short corner ten minutes into the second half.

Reading, who had knocked Canterbury out of the EHA Cup a week ago, beat the Kent side at home 6-3, with Pearn and Ashdown scoring two *goals each. Guildford* were trounced 7-1 at home by Teddington, with Garrard scoring three goals. Jennings had put Guildford in the lead *from a short corner in the sec*ond minute.

Brooklands recorded their first win in 18 matches by beating Hounslow 3-2, but are still *bottom of the table.* A flooded pitch at Hull caused the postponement of the first division match against Surbiton, who would have been without Nichol, *their forward. He was* busy scoring two goals for South Africa in a 3-2 victory over Australia in Pretoria.



A swinging time had by all

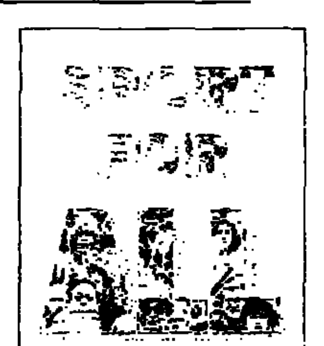


Sally Jones plays the supportive parent as her children enjoy their first taste of gymnastics

There was a collective gasp as the small group of newcomers crept into the high, spacious gymnasium and took in the sheer variety of apparatus on show: trampettes, tempting rings swinging from the ceiling, a vaulting horse with a run-up the length of the gym, a four-inch beam at waist height surrounded by deep-pile crash-mats and two sets of bars, asymmetric and single, above a deep pit filled with mountains of foam-rubber chunks for the softest of landings. Among the first-timers were my two children, Roly, 8, and Madeline, 6, who looked suitably amazed.

"It's like the best playground you ever saw," Roly said. "Can I have a swing like that boy?" He pointed to a wiry-looking 9-year-old who was flicking his legs to and fro as he hung like a pendulum from the high rings, an instructor at the ready in case of a fall.

Madeline, meanwhile, was transfixed by the sight of a tiny, muscular girl in a white, sparkly leotard, sprinting down the tumbling track and, after a series of spectacular back-flips, finishing with a double back somersault into the



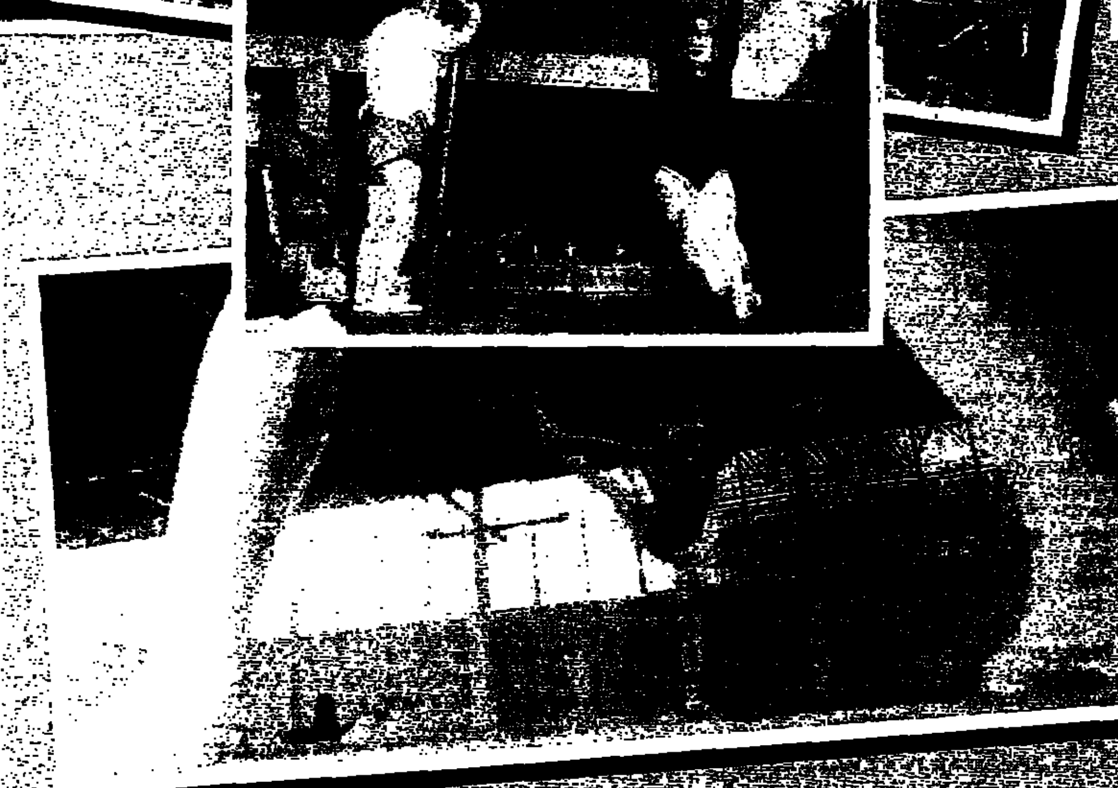
foam pit. Impressed though she was by the fluent tumbling, it was the leotard that Madeline really coveted and the look of longing said more clearly than any words that her own garb, the white T-shirt and shorts of her school gym kit, was definitely second-best.

It was an auspicious start to both children's first taste of gymnastics, as the newest recruits to Coventry Olympic Gymnastics Club in the gym at Warwick University.

"Line up, everyone," Tex Coton, the tough, jolly ex-Army PTI who runs the club, instructed. "Stand tidy!" At once, the 30 children working in small groups on the different pieces of apparatus dashed over and formed neat lines, feet turned out, arms held at their sides, hands rounded balletically. The newcomers slouched and drooped, feet turned in until shown the desired posture, but, from then on, they stood like pouter pigeons, aching to emulate the old hands.

The hour-long afternoon class, one of scores held at the gym each week, caters for children aged from 5 to 18 with a variety of standards — from total beginners to national squad members. The club includes several youngsters with special needs, among them Laura Bateman, 13, who was born with a hip problem that left her with one leg shorter and thinner than the other.

Bateman, the British junior disabilities champion, who has, astoundingly, just achieved a place in the able-bodied county squad, regularly trains for four hours a day, achieving high-level moves, like back-flips on the beam, which means that she can compete on equal terms with able-bodied youngsters at regional level. She has also amazed doctors by building up so much strength in her weaker leg that, apart from a slight limp, it is hard to believe that she is disabled at all.



Gymnastics offers children the chance to swing, leap and bounce their way through training sessions. Rather than a place of hard graft, gymnasiums can be more like playgrounds to many. Photographs: Stuart Harrison

The whole class did a string of stretching and suppling exercises, humping and hollowing their backs, sitting with legs straight and wide apart then walking their hands out as far as they could between them. Roly yelped when his hamstring twinged as Coton pressed down gently on his back, but he giggled as he finally succeeded in pushing himself up into a bridge, then admired the perfect arch of Reece Cleall, 10, a relative newcomer but one of the club's most promising boys.

Madeline took her first tentative steps on the beam, learning to walk along it, arms out, head held high, swinging her feet through with pointed toes and trying small, two-footed jumps, knees locked together fore and aft ("Look at me tightrope-walking, mummy"). After several minutes of painstaking hopscotch steps, she got the hang of the run-up for the vault, dashing on to the springboard and bouncing off it two-footed to land, feet together, between her hands on top of the horse.

By now, Roly had achieved his ambition on the rings and was swinging for minutes on end, legs straight and (roughly) together, face puce and wreathed in smiles ("Remember to keep breathing, mate!"). Madeline watched rapt as her heroine in the white leotard, Lizzie Garbutt, 9, a slender sprite with exquisite poise and extension and the West Midlands under-10 team tumbling champion, went through her floor routine.

The youngest children ended the class bouncing on the trampettes and jumping off with a half-twist in the air before landing on the thick mats, flexing their knees neatly. The whole group then sprinted at top speed around the gym and threw themselves into the pit of foam-rubber beneath the bars in a giggly finale that banished the atmosphere of sustained concentration.

For the newcomers, the need to focus for a solid hour on a range of unfamiliar drills plus the physical demands of the session proved to be exhausting, but everyone left the gym smiling with a sense of purpose and achievement.

Now, four sessions later, Madeline and Roly are as enthusiastic as ever but far more attuned to the discipline of standing tidily in line waiting their turn and following instructions. They even practise bridges and handstands in the garden and Madeline pleads for a red velvet leotard several times a day. For the moment, though, this has been put on hold as retribution for an energetic bouncing session in which her bed proved unequal to the combined weight of two excited children using it as a trampette.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Today's hand comes from a new book, *Expert Tuition*, by Raymond and Sally Brock.

Dealer West E-W Game IMPs

North: ♠ A 10 ♥ K J 9 3 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A 10 8 5 3

West: ♠ 7 6 3 2 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ A Q 5 3 ♣ K J

East: ♠ Q J 9 5 ♥ – ♦ K 9 7 2 ♣ Q 9 7 4 2

South: ♠ K 8 4 ♥ Q 10 6 5 4 2 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ 6

S	W	N	E
–	1 NT	2 C (1)	Pass
4 H	All Pass		

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: six of spades.

(1) Astro, showing hearts and another suit

Four Hearts is an excellent game. Declarer needs either to take two ruffs in the dummy, or to set up an extra trick in the club suit or ... a misdefence.

Declarer won the spade lead, played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. She then played the jack of diamonds from hand which West won with the queen and switched to a trump. Declarer won in dummy and ruffed a club high, now needing the club break because she was not going to be allowed to take two ruffs in the dummy.

West now made the mistake of overruffing and playing a second trump. With only two of dummy's trumps having been drawn, declarer was back on track. She simply conceded a diamond and later ruffed a diamond and a spade in the dummy.

This is a fairly common defensive situation in which it is generally wrong to overruff, for by so doing you draw only *one* of your opponents' trumps with one of yours. If you can gain the lead and then play your ace of trumps you draw *two* of their trumps with one of yours.

Expert Tuition is written in a chatty style as a conversation between the two authors who have played a 64-board match in the same team but in different partnerships. All 64 hands are discussed in detail

The book (published by B. T. Batsford) is available from Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR; tel: 0171 388 2404, price £9.99 including postage and packing.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov dominates

By defeating his main rival, Viswanathan Anand, in a complicated and exciting game, Garry Kasparov has moved into a seemingly decisive lead in the elite tournament at Linares in Spain, Kasparov consolidated his lead by drawing against his other main rival, Vladimir Kramnik, in the eleventh round.

The win against Anand by Kasparov is extraordinary, with Kasparov launching a violent counterattack as Black with his own king marooned in the centre. After virtually unfathomable complications, Anand's resistance cracked when he missed a likely draw in a difficult endgame and soon had to resign.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares 1999

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	f3	e6
7	Be3	b5
8	g4	h6
9	Qd2	Nbd7
10	0-0-0	Bb7
11	h4	b4
12	Nb1	d5
13	Bh3	g5
14	hxg5	hxg5
15	exd5	Nxd5
16	Bxg5	Qb6
17	Bg2	Rxh1
18	Bxh1	Rc8
19	Re1	Qa5
20	f4	Qxa2
21	f5	Nc5
22	fxe6	Bg7
23	exf7+	Kxf7
24	Bxd5+	Qxd5
25	Re7+	Kg8
26	Rxg7+	Kxg7
27	Nc3	bxc3
28	Nf5+	Kf7
29	Qxd5+	Bxd5
30	Nd6+	Kg6
31	Nxc8	Kxg5
32	Nb6	Be6
33	bxc3	Kxg4
34	Kb2	Kf4
35	Ka3	a5
36	Na4	Ne4
37	Nb2	Nxc3
38	Nd3+	Ke3
39	Nc5	Bf5
40	Kb2	Nd5
41	Nb7	a4
42	c4	Nb6
43	Nd6	Bd3
44	c5	Nd5
45	Ka3	Bc2
46	Nb5	Ne7
47	Na7	Kd4
48	c6	Nd5
49	Nb5+	Kc5
50	c7	Bf5

White resigns

Diagram of final position

Missed opportunity

On move 47 the move 47 Nc3 should draw. In the final position Black wins after 51 Kxa4 Nb6+ 52 Ka5 Nc4+ 53 Ka6 (if 53 Ka4 Bc2 is an amazing mate) 53 ... Bc8+ 54 Ka7 Kxb5 55 Kb8 Nd6 and Black wins.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

Dedication the name of the game in pursuit of stardom

Suppleness remains an essential ingredient if young gymnasts are to reach the top

GYMNASTICS was widely practised in Ancient Greece and Rome and remains an enjoyable, all-round system for strengthening and making the whole body supple. Most children undertake some form of gymnastics at school and an estimated 300,000 belong to specialist clubs, training in artistic gymnastics or another of the allied disciplines such as sports acrobatics (mainly floor work), tumbling or rhythmic gymnastics, which is performed to music and involves apparatus including clubs, hoops, ropes and balls as part of its routines.

Female artistic gymnasts compete on four pieces of apparatus — beam, floor, vault and asymmetric bars; the men work on six — parallel bars, high bar, pommel horse, vault, floor and rings. Competitors perform choreographed routines that must include the prescribed elements appropriate to their level. They are judged on execution, including neatness, power, control and interpretation, as well as on the degree of difficulty attempted.

In general, the judges give marks out of ten for each routine and medals are awarded to the top performers on the individual pieces of apparatus as well as to the overall winners who achieve the best combined marks from all the disciplines.

At the highest level, gymnastics is a gruelling, all-consuming discipline akin to ballet in the dedication that it demands. The correct physique is vital: most top gymnasts are short, with narrow hips and powerful legs to produce the ideal blend of strength, speed and lightness. Natural flexibility, particularly in the back and legs, is also a great advantage, reducing the hours of conditioning needed to reach the top.

Traditionally, Eastern European countries have dominated the sport. Thousands of talented youngsters as young as 5 and their parents are measured to check whether they should develop the correct physique. The most gifted and dedicated then train for up to six hours a day in sports schools with top-class coaches, competing internationally across the world, a system that has produced scores of champions but also a high drop-out rate, because of chronic injury, anorexia (a significant problem among young female gymnasts obsessed with the need to stay knife-thin), burn-out and boredom with such a lifestyle.

Over the past two decades, thanks to the influence of tiny prodigies such as Olga Korbut and Nadia Comaneci, the emphasis, particularly in women's gymnastics, has shifted away from a more artistic and balletic style towards athletic, technically complex routines with spectacular tumbling at a premium. This was the main reason for the emergence of the crop of waif-like stars, many barely into their teens.

The pendulum, however, is perhaps beginning to swing the other way. Svetlana Boginskaya, of Belarus, a former Olympic champion and a notably feminine performer, amazed the gymnastic world when she took overall silver at the European championships in 1996 at the age of 24. At the start of 1997, a rule was introduced to prevent girls younger than 16 from competing in world, European and Olympic championships at senior level, to ease the pressure on the teenagers.

Great Britain's elite gymnasts train mainly at the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall, but, although their schedules are now comparable with the Eastern Europeans in terms of diet, mental attitude and injuries, the general approach is far less authoritarian.

SALLY JONES

FACT BOX



A typical training session at Warwick University

HOW TO START: There are almost 1,000 clubs registered with the British Gymnastics Association (BGA) in Great Britain, ranging from low-key organisations, with a handful of children training for a few hours a week, to top-class outfits, such as the national womens champions, Heathrow and City of Liverpool, with many members of all ages working in state-of-the-art gyms with top coaches.
COST: Club subscriptions range from £20 to £100 a term, depending on the size and professionalism of the operation.
KIT: As gymnasts train and compete barefoot, they need little specialist clothing, apart from a leotard: £10-£30 depending on quality and a tracksuit usually costing between £10 and £50.
TESTS: The BGA sets a series of graded age-group tests from beginner level up to international standard. Many gymnasts who simply train for fun and exercise opt to take only the recreational level tests rather than the competitive ones. Moving up the grades at the higher levels depends on success in appropriate competitions as well as passing the relevant tests. For safety reasons, gymnasts are only allowed to move on to the next level after proving that they are ready to attempt it.
WHERE TO WATCH BRITAIN'S STARS IN ACTION:
March 13: Adam Shield, Leeds (the men's most sought-after and oldest team championship). **March 20:** Women's international: Great Britain v Slovakia, at the Guildford Spectrum (plus women's grade championships). **March 20:** Northwest Open, Liverpool (men's championships). **April 17-18:** Women's club team championships, Bognor.
INFORMATION: The British Gymnastics Association, Membership Department, Ford Hall, Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Nr Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9NB. Tel: 01952 820330.
Coventry Olympic Gymnastics Club (Tex Coton):
Tel: 01203 711068.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

UPANISHADS
a. Far Eastern dwellings
b. Protective legwear
c. Sacred writings

ANALEMMA
a. Irritation
b. Solar scale
c. Calculus

VENTIFACT
a. Shaped stone
b. Tailoring style
c. A blowhole

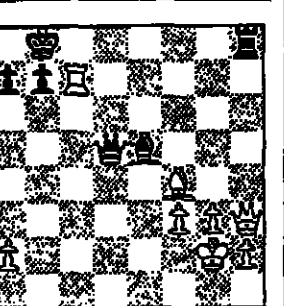
POPINJAY
a. The peacock
b. A zip fastener
c. A target

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Macieja — Stefanova, Elista 1998. All White's pieces are under attack, but White found a clear cut way to simplify the position to advantage. What did White play?



Solution on page 46



RACING

Dunwoody adds finishing touch to Florida Pearl

By Chris McGrath

LOCAL disillusion, after the Irish had once again spread their dreams under English feet at Lansdowne Road on Saturday, was no less painful for its familiarity. Yet the odds against the rugby team had, at least, been ruefully acknowledged throughout.

Dublin's other dream of Anglo-Irish sporting mastery has no such insulation against failure. In the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup, aspirations for Florida Pearl will not be tempered by romantic indulgence of the underdog. This time, Ireland does not hope. Ireland expects.

Florida Pearl is the most precious cargo of a frenzied three-day invasion of the Cotswolds, starting tomorrow week, even though Istabraq is odds on to retain the Smurfit Champion Hurdle. In contrast to Istabraq, there remain one or two questions over Florida Pearl — the most important of which he addressed anew yesterday, after racing at Leopardstown.

Two hundred racegoers lingered to watch him schooling over eight fences, his white face drawing their binoculars in the gathering murk.

Excepting one point-to-point in his youth, Florida Pearl has had only five chases. In falling on his reappearance at the Christmas meeting, he had betrayed an inexperience that might seriously compromise him against Teeton Mill. His big British rival is, after all, unforgiving in the accuracy of his jumping.

But Willie Mullins, trainer of Florida Pearl, believes that the potential advantages of a light preparation, in terms of the horse's longevity at the top, outweigh any disadvantages. Mullins has played his Cheltenham cards with unerring cool in the past, and success in the Irish Hennessy last month will have encouraged his compatriots that he will again get it right with Florida Pearl, who has won at the last two Festivals.

RICHARD EVANS

Ruby Walsh schooled the horse at home on Friday and yesterday Richard Dunwoody, his Gold Cup partner, was on hand to apply the finishing touches. He was accompanied by David Casey on Native-Darrig, who goes for the Guinness Arkle Trophy. "That was a nice piece of work," Dunwoody reported. "I sat off the other horse because we wanted him to settle, and he did that well. I just let him pop away and moved in the straight and he pinged the last." Mullins added: "We think he's spot on. We normally come here before Cheltenham because it's good to get a nice day away without a race. He might have a couple of bits of work but otherwise that'll be it now."

Naturally Dunwoody is anxious to be at his peak for the Festival and, after a recent lean spell, had confirmed his heartening form with a treble at Newbury on Saturday. He is now just 13 away from Peter Scudamore's all-time record of career wins. Tony McCoy, who might one day pass them both, responded with three of his own, including Gris D'Estruval in the novice chase.

David Johnson, his owner, now hopes that Martin Pipe can win him the Arkle with a French import for the third year running, after Or Royal in 1997 and Champleve last year. Rash Remark, successful for the triumvirate on the same card, also goes to the Festival. "He seems a complete natural," Johnson said. "As long as it stays on the soft side, he'll go for the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle." Lady Cricket will represent the same team in the Champion Hurdle.

At Warwick, Castle Mane preserved hopes that he might follow in the hoofprints of his former stablemate, Teeton Mill. An easy debut success under Rules will probably see him sent off favourite for the Christies Foxhunter Chase.

Lord Gyllene bid on hold

MARC ASPLAND



Lord Gyllene, the 1997 Martell Grand National winner, faces a race against time to be fit for this year's renewal

LORD GYLLENE, who ran away with the 1997 Martell Grand National, may again be denied a return to the scene of his finest hour by injury (Chris McGrath writes).

Such an uninhibited horse on his day, Lord Gyllene has been hindered by various physical problems since his Aintree success, missing the whole of last season with leg trouble. Now he is labouring with the pulled muscle that last week saw him ruled out of the Cheltenham Festival, and may not be ready in time for the National on April 10.

"He is still very sore and is not coming along as we would like," Steve Brookshaw, his trainer, said yesterday. "We've got our fingers crossed and are doing more tests, so we should know more in a week." Brookshaw added that Listen Timmy, left idle by the abandonment of Doncaster on Saturday, would go to the Festival for either the Mildmay of Flete or Cathcart Chase.

Another big-race winner who has not enjoyed the ideal preparation for a repeat bid is Silver Charm. The superbly tough grey, who held off Swain in an epic duel for the Dubai World Cup last year, met with his second defeat of 1999 in the grade one Santa Anita Handicap on Saturday.

He was beaten half a length and the same into third by Free House, but Bob Baffert considered him unlucky. "He had no place to go," the trainer said. "Every time he tried to get out, they would close it up on the poor guy."

The Dubai World Cup, on March 28, vividly marks a change of tempo for the new Flat season, which follows hard on the heels of Cheltenham. David Harrison will be in good heart for the turf campaign, after a startling 183-1 success on Holy Grail in the Hong Kong Derby over the weekend.

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Henry Island. 2.50 THE MINDER (nap). 3.20 Nazzaro. 3.50 Dancing Paddy. 4.20 Kingsfold Pet. 4.50 Jim Jam Joey.

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.50 ROSEY BOY.

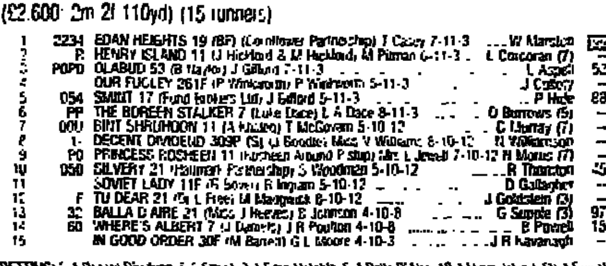
GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 KYBO MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,600: 2m 2f 110yd) (15 runners)

1 2234 EDAN HEIGHTS 19 (BF) (Cauliflower Partnership) T Casey 7-11-3 W Marston [illegible]
2 P HENRY ISLAND 11 (J Hickford & M Hickford) M Pitman 6-11-3 L Corcoran (7) —
3 POPO OLABUD 53 (B Hayles) J Gifford 7-11-3 L Aspell 52
4 OUR FUGLEY 261F (P Winkworth) P Winkworth 5-11-3 J Culloty —
5 054 SMINT 17 (Fund Fookers Ltd) J Gifford 5-11-3 P Hide 88
6 PP THE BOREEN STALKER 7 (Luke Dace) L A Dace 8-11-3 O Burrows (5) —
7 00U BINT SHRUHOON 11 (A Khaleq) T McGovern 5-10-12 C Murray (7) —
8 1- DECENT DIVIDEND 309P (S) (J Goodier) Miss V Williams 8-10-12 N Williamson —
9 P0 PRINCESS ROSHEEN 11 (Rosheen Around P ship) Mrs L Jewell 7-10-12 H Morris (7) —
10 050 SILVERY 21 (Hallmark Partnership) S Woodman 5-10-12 R Thornton 45
11 SOVIET LADY 11F (S Bowen) R Ingram 5-10-12 D Gallagher —
12 F TU DEAR 21 (G L Freer) M Madgwick 8-10-12 J Goldstein (3) —
13 32 BALLA D AIRE 21 (Miss J Reeves) B Johnson 4-10-8 G Supple (3) 97
14 60 WHERE'S ALBERT 7 (J Daniels) J R Poulton 4-10-8 B Powell 15
15 IN GOOD ORDER 30F (M Barrett) G L Moore 4-10-3 J R Kavanagh —

BETTING: 2-1 Decent Dividend, 5-2 Smint, 3-1 Edan Heights, 6-1 Balla D'Aire, 10-1 Henry Island, 20-1 Soviet Lady, 33-1 Silvery, In Good Order, 50-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING



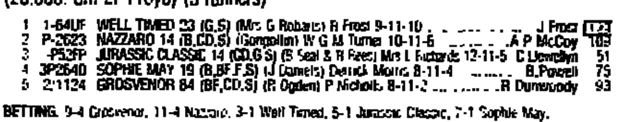
FORMFOCUS: Edan Heights 40l 4th of 7 to Her 'n Saucy in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy) previously 11l 3rd of 9 to Heros Fatal in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). Olabud 44l 7th of 12 to Hordy in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft). Smint 19l 4th of 13 to Bacchanal in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft), previously 22l 5th of 11 to Salamah in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft). Princess Rosheen 80l 17th of 21 to Norwegian Chevalier in mares maiden hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good) with Bint Shruhoon (levels) unseated rider. Silvery beaten a distance 7th of 12 to Dees C Diva in mares novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft) with Tu Dear (levels) fell. Balla D'Aire 2½l 2nd of 7 to Fagez in 4yo novice claiming hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft), previously 14l 3rd of 9 to Wilmott's Fancy in maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft). Where's Albert 55l 8th of 13 to Polar Flight in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy) with The Boreen Stalker (levels) pulled up.

SMINT has shaped well in two hurdle starts and should be well suited by this longer trip

2.50 FONTWELL PARK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,198: 2m 6f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 P51200 WEATHER WISE 13 (C,F,G,S) (D Chown) W G M Turner 7-12-0 N Williamson [illegible]
2 606655 CLAIRESWAN 6 (C,F,G,S) (M Barrett) C Dwyer 7-11-10 A P McCoy 30
3 /20120 AMILLIONMEMORIES 16 (F,G,S) (P Jones) Mrs B Waring 9-11-5 E Byrne 95
4 40/P1- DACELO 373P (F) (D Bassett) H Howe 8-11-4 Mr P Costello (7) —
5 412402 INCLINATION 12 (S) (R Morton) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-12 Mr R Forristal (5) 92
6 253045 THE MINDER 19 (B,G,S) (G Edwards) G Edwards 12-10-8 M A Fitzgerald 57
7 332243 DIVINE CHANCE 33 (D,G,S) (M Churches) M Churches 11-10-5 Mr J Young (7) 91
8 633-40 THE SWAN 18 (B) (T Sanders) R Frost 6-10-3 T O'Connor (7) 58
9 430F0U ADILOV 12 (C,F,S) (T Mitchell & Mrs H Veal) J Bridger 7-10-0 M Batchelor (5) 84
10 30/4P- CHINA MAIL 25F (F) (Merlin Syndicate) M Quinn 7-10-0 L Harvey —
11 54/P-P WEAPONS FREE 28 (Mrs L Richards) Mrs L Richards 8-10-0 C Llewellyn —
12 P40-00 DO BE WARE 126 (F,S) (Mrs J Ewer) Mrs J Ewer 9-10-0 Miss C Dyson 61
13 U2P-PP ELL GEE 7 (B) (P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 9-10-0 X Aizpuru (3) —

BETTING: 7-2 Inclination, 5-1 The Minder, 11-2 Amillionmemories, 6-1 Weather Wise, 13-2 Claireswan, 10-1 Divine Chance, The Swan, Adilov, 14-1 others.



FORMFOCUS: Weather Wise 23l 8th of 18 to Mister Generosity in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Claireswan 11l 5th of 17 to Titan in selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 3f, soft). Amillionmemories 26l 7th of 12 to Young Radical in handicap hurdle at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, good to soft), previously 12l 2nd of 14 to Our Sandbridge in selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft) with Claireswan (2lb worse off) 21l 5th. Dacelo 13l 8th of 17 to Northern Star in maiden hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm), previously 13l 4th of 11 to Lucca Forte in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm). Inclination 10l 2nd of 14 to Charlie Chang in selling handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft) with Adilov (2lb better off) unseated rider. The Minder 24l 5th of 16 to Surprise Gunner in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). The Swan 16l 9th of 15 to Stretching in selling handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 33l 4th of 6 to Doctor Bravious in selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, heavy).

INCLINATION had the form of her second to Charlie Chang franked when the winner won on Saturday

3.20 BRITISH EQUESTRIAN INSURANCE BROKERS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,558: 3m 2f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 1-64UF WELL TIMED 23 (G,S) (Mrs G Roberts) R Frost 9-11-10 J Frost [illegible]
2 P-2623 NAZZARO 14 (B,CD,S) (Gongolfin) W G M Turner 10-11-6 A P McCoy 109
3 -P52FP JURASSIC CLASSIC 14 (CD,G,S) (S Seal & R Rees) Mrs L Richards 12-11-5 C Llewellyn 51
4 3P2640 SOPHIE MAY 19 (B,BF,F,S) (J Daniels) Derrick Morris 8-11-4 B Powell 75
5 2/1124 GROSVENOR 84 (BF,CD,S) (R Ogden) P Nicholls 8-11-2 R Dunwoody 93

BETTING: 9-4 Grosvenor, 11-4 Nazzaro, 3-1 Well Timed, 5-1 Jurassic Classic, 7-1 Sophie May.

FORMFOCUS: Well Timed 6l 2nd and beaten when left 3 out in 5-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m, soft) won by Step On Eyre. Nazzaro 21l 3rd of 11 to Sebastian in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with Jurassic Classic (1lb better off) pulled up. Sophie May 31l 7th of 16 to Surprise Gunner in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 4f 110yd, heavy), previously 26l 4th of 13 to Stormhill Stag in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, soft). Grosvenor 34l 4th of 7 to Kimanicky in handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously 30l 2nd of 4 to Hoodwinker in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, heavy).

GROSVENOR, let down by his jumping since completing a double, is taken to land a weak race

3.50 CORAL HURDLE [SHOWCASE HANDICAP]
(£5,251: 2m 2f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 .03233 AMAZE 10 (F,G) (Lady Katharine Phillips) Lady Herries 10-11-10 W Greatrex (7) 95
2 312-50 MACHIAVELLI 90 (CD,G) (B & C Fenwick) G L Moore 5-11-6 M Batchelor (5) 105
3 -46524 DANCING PADDY 28 (CD,F,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 11-11-4 N Williamson 92
4 42-P66 TISSUE OF LIES 26 (G) (No Hassle Partnership) J Akehurst 6-11-3 G Bradley [illegible]
5 116342 RAJATI 9 (G,S) (Peoples Racing) A Streeter 4-10-12 T Eley 100
6 404242 FOUNTAIN BID 12 (CD,G) (R Dean) R Dean 7-10-8 Mr N Fehily (7) 100
7 3-112- KIMBERS 468 (F) (G Wareham) G Wareham 11-10-7 L Aspell —
8 2-56- ONE IN THE EYE 497F (F Wilson) J R Poulton 6-10-0 J Magee —

BETTING: 11-4 Rajati, 7-2 Fountain Bid, 4-1 Amaze, 5-1 Dancing Paddy, 6-1 Machiavelli, 8-1 Tissue Of Lies, 14-1 Kimbers, 25-1 One In The Eye.

FORMFOCUS: Amaze 7l 3rd of 12 to Filscot in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good), previously 12l 3rd of 9 to Antiguan Flyer in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) with Machiavelli (5lb better off) 15l 5th. Machiavelli beaten a distance last of 7 to King Of Thieves in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, heavy). Dancing Paddy 12l 4th of 10 to Skram in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with Tissue Of Lies (1lb better off) 18l 6th. Rajati 12l 2nd of 9 to Simply Gifted in 4yo novice handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft), previously 11l 4th of 16 to What A Fuss in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft). Fountain Bid 1½l 2nd of 7 to Equity's Darling in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, soft), previously 9l 4th of 7 to It's Wallace in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft). Kimbers 1½l 2nd of 7 to Yet Again in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good). One In The Eye 30l 6th of 12 to Andsuephi in maiden hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good).

RAJATI is proving more consistent and remains on a reasonable mark

4.20 KING AND BARNES 'BEST BITTER' NOVICES CHASE
(£2,738: 2m 3f) (5 runners)

1 -32321 KINGSFOLD PET 21 (G,S) (G Nye Partnership) M Haynes 10-11-10 C Llewellyn [illegible]
2 -256F6 CALVARO 12 (B Naylor) J Gifford 8-11-3 L Aspell 73
3 00/0P5 CLASSIC IMAGE 9 (G) (H Manners) H Manners 9-11-3 S Curran —
4 02-452 HEAD FOR HEAVEN 12 (S) (Fulay Racing & Hann) R Hood 9-11-3 J Culloty 97
5 03U6U0 SMART GUY 12 (Mrs P Dunkin) Mrs L Jewell 7-11-3 T Peoples (7) 84

BETTING: 4-7 Kingsfold Pet, 2-1 Head For Heaven, 12-1 Calvaro, 20-1 Smart Guy, 33-1 Classic Image.

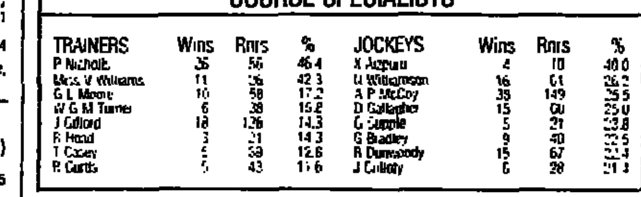
FORMFOCUS: Kingsfold Pet beat Nassau 7l in 4-runner novice chase at Plumpton (2m 2f, soft), previously beaten a distance last of 2 to Maadou in novice chase at Lingfield (2m, heavy). Classic Image beaten a distance 5th of 6 to Super Tactics in chase at Kempton (2m, soft). Head For Heaven 3l 2nd of 9 to Super Max in handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, good to soft) with Calvaro (14lb worse off) 37l 6th and Smart Guy (15lb worse off) 41l 7th.

KINGSFOLD PET gained a nice confidence booster latest and is the clear form pick here

4.50 SOVEREIGN NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,268: 3m 3f) (6 runners)

1 -23152 JIM JAM JOEY 40 (BF,C,S) (Hon Mrs C Yeates) D Grissell 6-11-9 J Goldstein (3) 85
2 F-33PP BOZO 53 (B) (B Ryall) B Ryall 8-11-3 J Tizzard 85
3 P MIDNIGHT MASTER 14 (Pupsi Partners) R Curtis 8-11-3 J Leech —
4 434R42 ROSEY BOY 14 (Mrs P Wilson & M Wilson) M Pitman 6-11-3 N Williamson [illegible]
5 560-4U YAK ALFARAJ 117 (Miss J Collison) P Murphy 5-11-3 L Aspell 53
6 060-U KILORAN BAY 83 (N Blair) R Rowe 8-10-12 P Hide 23

BETTING: 5-4 Jim Jam Joey, 6-4 Rosey Boy, 15-2 Bozo, 16-1 Yak Alfaraj, 20-1 Midnight Master, Kiloran Bay.



FORMFOCUS: Jim Jam Joey 3½l 2nd of 11 to Ardent Oliver in amateur novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, heavy), previously 38l 5th of 12 to Simpcat in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, soft). Bozo pulled up in novice handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, soft); finished 10½l 3rd of 8 to Captain Queen in novice handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft) when last completing. Rosey Boy 19l 2nd of 13 to Arctic Camper in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft) with Midnight Master (levels) pulled up. Yak Alfaraj unseated rider in novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good to soft), previously 17l 4th of 7 to The Bargeman in novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 6f, good to soft). Kiloran Bay unseated rider in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy), previously 46l 9th of 12 to Wadada in claiming hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good).

Winning pointer JIM JAM JOEY should relish this test of stamina

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
P Nicholls	26	56	46.4	X Aizpuru	4	10	40.0
Miss V Williams	11	26	42.3	N Williamson	16	61	26.2
G L Moore	10	58	17.2	A P McCoy	38	149	25.5
W G M Turner	6	38	15.8	D Gallagher	15	60	25.0
J Gifford	18	126	14.3	G Supple	5	21	23.8
R Hood	3	21	14.3	G Bradley	9	40	22.5
T Casey	5	39	12.8	R Dunwoody	15	67	22.4
R Curtis	5	43	11.6	J Culloty	6	28	21.4

Blinkered first time

Fontwell Park: 2.50 The Swan. 4.50 Bozo. Southwell: 4.40 Aldwych Arrow, Madam Lucy. 5.10 Mach One.

Charlie Strong shows promise

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

ONE way of gauging the quality of young horses in a sport which is now fulfilling its aim to be a nursery for National Hunt racing is to apply the Paul Nicholls factor. If he is present at a meeting, the chances are he is assessing horses which will join his yard in the future. After Saturday's **Duke Of Beaufort** meeting he had few complaints about the progress of Charlie Strong and Satshoon.

The pair provided a double for their rider, Tim Mitchell, and trainer, Richard Barber, with six-year-old Satshoon (4-9) coasting to victory in the men's open from five rivals who included a disappointing Lord Relic.

Charlie Strong's assignment in the intermediate was a lot tougher. He faced a throng of talented opponents which did credit to their connections for taking on the challenge.

In the event, Charlie Strong (4-5) was all out to catch the seven-year-old mare, Jilly Wig, a few yards from the line. Twenty five lengths back in third was six-year-old Thatsforeel, at 35,000gns the most expensive pointer sold at auction last year, while also-rans included such talents as The Hobbit, who blundered out of contention six fences from home, Southern Flight, Givus A Hand and Mr Dennehy.

Nicholls, admitting he has a near impossible task in gaining improvement from horses trained by Barber, said Charlie Strong "should make a nice 2½-miler".

Clive Hitchings, owner of Thatsforeel, was pleased with his horse's run against race-fit opponents. "He'll come on a lot for the run and wants faster ground than this," he said.

Elsewhere, Grimley Gale (1-3) warmed up for Cheltenham's Foxhunter Chase with victory at the **Easton Harriers** — she must have good or faster ground to run at the Festival — while Caroline Tuffin, 18, rode her first winner at the **East Devon** on Blue Laws (6-1). Former women's champion Shirley Vickery was taken to hospital after a fall at this meeting but suffered only a badly bruised elbow.

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER

2.00 Iron Mountain. 2.30 Dockmaster. 3.00 Rossel. 3.30 Eastern Project. 4.00 Supreme Spice. 4.30 Danbys Gorse. 5.00 Mount Stuart.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.00 McEWANS 70/- JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,374: 2m) (15 runners)

1 0P ALWAYS TRYING 84 M Hammond 11-5 D Bentley —
2 P202 CURRICULUS 8 M Todhunter 11-5 C McCormack (3) 57
3 P0 DOOT 19 M Barnes 11-5 S Taylor —
4 IRON MOUNTAIN 123F N Callaghan 11-5 J P Spencer —
5 LE SAUVAGE 31F D Barker 11-5 J Callaghan —
6 6323 POLO VENTURE 89 M Hammond 11-5 B Harding [illegible]
7 0P3 SMILET 19 E W Tuer 11-5 K Johnson 48
8 00 WHITEGATES PRINCE 20 B Ellison 11-5 A Dobbin —
9 BRIDE'S ANSWER 148F C Grant 11-0 R Supple —
10 0 CAMPARI 14 Mrs A Naughton 11-0 J Supple —
11 036 GOLDENGIRLMICHELLE 14 F Murphy 11-0 A Maguire 53
12 0 PARLEZ MOI D'AMOUR 19 D Smith 11-0 L Wyer —
13 235 TENDER TOUCH 51 Miss K Milligan 11-0 R Johnson 58
14 U540 TOTAL TROPIX 16 Mrs S Bradburne 11-0 Mr M Bradburne (3) 56
15 0 TREASURE ISLAND 11 F Murphy 11-0 I Jardine (7) —

3-1 Polo Venture, 7-2 Smilet, 4-1 Curriculus, 5-1 Iron Mountain, 8-1 Goldengirlmichelle, Tender Touch, 20-1 Treasure Island, 25-1 others.

2.30 FORTH FM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,304: 3m) (10)

1 5443 RALLEGIO 23 (G,S) P Monteith 10-12-0 L Cooper (5) 97
2 P650 BRIDLE PATH 34 (D,F,G,S) T Easterby 8-11-11 R McGrath 49
3 1032 RUBER 34 (D,F,G,S) R Thomson 12-11-2 G Lee 89
4 PP40 DOCKMASTER 16 (V,D,S) Miss K Milligan 8-11-1 N Horrocks [illegible]
5 0030 MR CHRISTIE 16 (CD,G,S) Miss L Siddall 7-10-13 T Siddall 84
6 5060 ASTRALEON 52 (F,G) N P Mccormack 11-10-5 G F Ryan 74
7 0606 SHE'S ALL HEART 19 L Lungo 6-10-0 W Dowling 57
8 -3F0 PLEASEDASPUNCH 32 (G) J Storey 7-10-0 S Durack —
9 0-04 INDIAN VICEROY 104 J Turner 6-10-0 B Grattan 47
10 PPP6 RARE JADE 35 Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-0 C McCormack —

3-1 Ruber, 4-1 Rallegio, 6-1 She's All Heart, 13-2 Bridle Path, 8-1 Dockmaster, Mr Christie, 10-1 Astraleon, Indian Viceroy, 12-1 others.

3.00 McEWANS 80/- NOVICES CHASE
(£2,705: 2m) (6)

1 1334 ROSSEL 19 (BF,D,G) P Monteith 6-11-7 C McCormack (3) [illegible]
2 3-1P STASH THE CASH 52 (D,G) M Hammond 8-11-7 B Harding 78
3 P00- CICERONE 299 Miss L Russell 9-11-0 R Johnson —
4 458P MOUNTAIN DREAM 7 R Allan 6-11-0 B Storey —
5 31P0 KOBALT 20 (G) A Whillans 5-10-13 I Jardine (7) —
6 2252 CHARMING GIRL 13 (D,G) O Sherwood 8-10-9 J Osborne 111

5-4 Charming Girl, 2-1 Rossel, 4-1 Stash The Cash, 14-1 Kobalt, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: F Murphy, 10 winners from 32 runners, 31.3%; J Jefferson, 5 from 20, 25.0%; K Morgan, 3 from 12, 25.0%; C Grant, 3 from 13, 23.1%; G M Moore, 7 from 32, 21.9%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 5 winners from 5 rides, 100%; N Horrocks, 3 from 7, 42.9%; W Dowling, 3 from 9, 33.3%; A Maguire, 7 from 23, 30.4%; A Dobbin, 19 from 102, 18.6%.

3.30 MILLER PILSNER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,786: 2m) (7)

1 23-0 TEMPO 93 (D,G,S) M Pefl 7-12-0 F Leahy —
2 1211 DORANS WAY 9 (CD,F,S) G M Moore 8-11-5 N Hannity (5) 114
3 PP10 KILBUE KING 20 (D,S) P Monteith 7-11-5 L Cooper (7) 107
4 5F00 SUPERTOP 9 (C,D,F,G) L Lungo 11-10-13 W Dowling (5) [illegible]
5 2133 EASTERN PROJECT 23 (D,F,S) M Hammond 5-10-3 B Harding 115
6 4-30 WELL APPOINTED 14 (D,F,G,S) B Mactaggart 10-10-2 Mr B Gibson (7) 124
7 2121 WELSH MOUNTAIN 20 (D,S) K Morgan 6-10-2 A S Smith 120

9-4 Dorans Way, 3-1 Eastern Project, Welsh Mountain, 6-1 Kilbue King, 8-1 Well Appointed, 14-1 Supertop, 33-1 Tempo.

4.00 McEWANS LAGER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,794: 2m 4f) (11)

1 3001 MUTASARRIF 20 (F,G) J Dodds 6-11-10 S Melrose (7) [illegible]
2 -00P CITIZEN KANE 68 O Sherwood 5-10-12 J Osborne 49
3 0456 CURTAINSATCHOPWELL 20 T Easterby 5-10-11 L Wyer 75
4 P261 TIFASI 6 (S) M Wilkinson 9-10-7 (7ex) R Massey 37
5 04P3 SUPREME SPICE 14 F Murphy 6-10-5 A Maguire 74
6 6234 GLACIAL DANCER 53 (S) L Lungo 6-10-5 R Supple 84
7 -5FP VALHALLA 23 (G) M Todhunter 6-10-2 B Harding 53
8 00F5 WILLIAM OF ORANGE 19 (B) J Jefferson 7-10-0 T Siddall (5) 74
9 4-00 CHAIN LINE 66 J Aynsley 9-10-0 R McGrath 62
10 5006 PROPELLANT 134 (B) D Barker 5-10-0 N Hannity (5) 67
11 -P0P JEANARN 17 K Morgan 6-10-0 L Cooper (7) —

7-2 Mutasarrif, 9-2 Supreme Spice, 11-2 Tifasi, 6-1 Glacial Dancer, 13-2 Curtainsatchopwell, 7-1 William Of Orange, 8-1 Citizen Kane, 10-1 others.

4.30 KRONENBOURG 1664 HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,420: 3m) (7)

1 P-6P MERLINS DREAM 46 (D,F,G,S) O Sherwood 10-11-10 J Osborne 68
2 4113 DANBYS GORSE 19 (B,C,G,S) J Jefferson 7-11-3 T Siddall (5) 99
3 5122 SALEM BEACH 19 (CD,F,G,S) M Todhunter 7-10-10 C McCormack (3) 89
4 P60U DESERT BRAVE 12 (G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-10-1 S Durack [illegible]
5 5140 COMMANDER GLEN 83 (F,G) M Hammond 7-10-1 B Harding 115
6 P54F MAYBE O'GRADY 19 (D,F,G,S) W Cunningham 10-10-0 H Smith 66
7 0150 BIT OF A DREAM 110 (G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-10-0 D Elsworth (7) 114

5-2 Salem Beach, 11-4 Danbys Gorse, 5-1 Commander Glen, 11-2 Desert Brave, Maybe O'Grady, 10-1 Merlins Dream, 25-1 Bit Of A Dream.

5.00 MILLER GENUINE DRAFT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,389: 2m) (9)

1 65 BREA HILL 72 F Murphy 6-11-0 A Maguire 89
2 LITTLE WORSALL Miss K Milligan 6-11-0 R Johnson —
3 P-53 LOBBINGALONG 145 N Richards 5-11-0 A Dobbin —
4 MOUNT STUART J Jefferson 6-11-0 L Wyer —
5 30 STOP THE GOSSIP 97 B Mactaggart 5-11-0 B Storey 68
6 14 ENBORNE 38 (D,S) D Barker 4-10-13 S Durack [illegible]
7 WHAT YOU MEAN M Pefl 4-10-6 F Leahy —
8 0 REMEMBER EQUINAME 44 D Eddy 4-10-1 C McCormack (3) —
9 00 TYNEMINE 12 B Ellison 4-10-1 A S Smith 51

7-4 Enborne, 3-1 Lobbingalong, 5-1 Mount Stuart, 8-1 Brea Hill, 10-1 Little Worsall, Stop The Gossip, Remember Equiname, 33-1 others.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.40 Shontaine. 2.10 Batsman. 2.40 Country Orchid. 3.10 Quezon City. 3.40 Euro Venture. 4.10 Scathebury. 4.40 Linea-G. 5.10 Mach One.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.40 RETFORD HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,347: 1m) (14 runners)

101 -061 HEVER GOLF GLORY 16 (D,G) C Kellett 5-9-10 T Williams 14
102 500- MOVING PRINCESS 153 Miss S Hall 4-9-7 A McGlone 1
103 5211 WINDSHIFT 7 (V,CD) D Shaw 3-9-3 (6ex) R Winston (3) 13
104 000- MOVING ARROW 142 (D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-2 A Culhane 8
105 001- THE STAGER 105 (CD,F,G) J Jenkins 7-8-13 K Fallon 6
106 5002 ALMAZHAR 7 J Eyre 4-8-11 G Lowther 10
107 4452 SLIP JIG 11J (B,S) K Burke 6-8-11 N Callan (5) 3
108 -263 WITHOUT FRIENDS 20 (V,D,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-10 Dean McKeown 7
109 -200 ERUPT 10 (G,S) M Brittain 6-8-9 D Mernagh (5) 5
110 -463 STATISTICIAN 13 (E,D,F,G,S) John Berry 7-8-6 D Williamson (7) 11
111 -323 HEATHYARDS JAKE 7 (BF) R Hollinshead 3-8-4 P M Quinn (7) 4
112 -004 SHONTAINE 11 (CD,F,G) M Johnston 6-8-2 G Bardwell 2
113 200- RAASED 108 (CD,G) F Watson 7-8-0 Kimberley Hart (5) 9
114 50-0 GENUINE JOHN 24 (B,C,D,G) J Parkes 6-7-13 J Quinn 12

9-2 Windshift, 5-1 Hever Golf Glory, 13-2 Moving Arrow, 7-1 The Stager, Slip Jig, 8-1 Almazhar, 12-1 Without Friends, Shontaine, 14-1 others.

2.10 RETFORD HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,347: 1m) (14)

201 1061 COOL SECRET 10 (C,F) K Burke 4-10-5 N Callan (5) 14
202 5632 PROSPECTOR'S COVE 12 (BF,D,S) J Pearce 6-9-7 A Polli (3) 9
203 -501 IMPELLING 10 (CD) K Burke 4-9-2 D Williams (7) 7
204 3641 MUTAHADETH 16 (B,CD) D Shaw 5-9-1 J Fanning 10
205 0-30 BATSMAN 10 (BF) M Dods 5-9-0 J Weaver 13
206 -152 GAIN LINE 24 (CD,F) K Bell 6-8-11 G Hannon (7) 3
207 46-3 TONNERRE 14 (S) K Morgan 7-8-9 P Fitzsimons (7) 8
208 -100 CHINABERRY 21 (CD) M Brittain 5-8-9 D Mernagh (5) 1
209 00-5 OLLIE'S CHUCKLE 10 (BF) J J Quinn 4-8-8 P Goode (5) 6
210 000- QUESTAN 154 (D,F,G) B Smart 7-8-4 S Drowne 12
211 5412 KANAWA 11 (C) A P Jones 5-8-1 F Norton 4
212 3033 MOONLIGHT FLIT 21 (F) J Eyre 4-7-13 J Quinn 2
213 0-24 SHAMOKIN 7 F Watson 7-7-12 Kimberley Hart (5) 11
214 0-00 MISTER MUNNELLY 24 (D,S) J Jenkins 6-7-10 J McAuley (7) 5

9-2 Prospector's Cove, 6-1 Cool Secret, 7-1 Impelling, 8-1 Mutahadeth, Gain Line, Kanawa, 10-1 Batsman, Moonlight Flit, 12-1 others.

2.40 SKEGBY MAIDEN STAKES
(£2,815: 1m 4f) (11)

301 00-0 ANDAMAN 19 D Murray Smith 5-9-12 N Callan (5) 9
302 -232 ROBELLITA 13 (BF) B Smart 5-9-12 P Goode (5) 2
303 42 CHALIAPIN 7 Bob Jones 4-9-10 N Day 4
304 2/2- COPERNICUS 203 P Cole 4-9-10 C Rutter 1
305 FIFTEEN REDS 39J D Shaw 4-9-10 R Winston (3) 3
306 KENT P Cundell 4-9-10 S Whitworth 8
307 TERRAZZO 38J J FitzGerald 4-9-10 K Fallon 7
308 56- COUNTRY ORCHID 20J Mrs M Reveley 8-9-7 A Culhane 11
309 3- MARLENE 321 M Chennon 4-9-5 D Mason (7) 6
310 53-2 ARTHURS KINGDOM 31 A Jarvis 3-8-3 L Newton 10
311 60-6 HILL STORM 41 K McAuliffe 3-8-3 F Norton 5

3-1 Copernicus, 4-1 Robellita, 5-1 Arthurs Kingdom, 13-2 Marlene, 8-1 Terrazzo, 10-1 Chaliapin, Country Orchid, 14-1 others.

3.10 NORMANTON HANDICAP
(£2,596: 2m) (11)

401 3215 PIPE MUSIC 16 (CD) P Haslam 4-10-0 P Goode (5) 3
402 0-04 FATHER SKY 27 (D,F,G,S) O Sherwood 8-10-0 S Carson (7) 10
403 056/ TUKANO 10J (S) J Jenkins 8-9-10 A Culhane 9
404 0424 TIME CAN TELL 11 (G) A Juckes 5-9-6 Dean McKeown 1
405 00-1 UNIFORM 17 (CD,S) Miss S Hall 4-9-4 A McGlone 11
406 0/13 HE'S GOT WINGS 17 (BF,CD,F) M Pefl 6-9-4 G Carter 6
407 2401 COLERIDGE 17 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Sheehan 11-9-3 J Wilson (7) 7
408 5-14 QUEZON CITY 24 (BF,CD,F) Miss J Camacho 5-9-1 R Cochrane 8
409 3253 MUDLARK 17 (V) J Norton 7-8-3 G Bardwell 4
410 4-02 CATCHMENT 6 Mrs A Perrett 5-7-11 P Doe (3) 2
411 -440 MISS LACROIX 10 R Hollinshead 4-7-10 P M Quinn (7) 5

11-4 Uniform, 7-2 He's Got Wings, 9-2 Coleridge, 11-2 Quezon City, 10-1 Mudlark, 12-1 Catchment, 14-1 Pipe Music, Father Sky, 16-1 others.

3.40 MARKHAM MOOR HANDICAP (TOTE TRIFECTA RACE)
(£3,701: 6f) (12)

501 -023 OCKER 31 (D,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-10 P McCabe 3
502 000- INCHALONG 132 (V,D,G) M Brittain 4-9-7 D Mernagh (5) 11
503 6262 REDOUBTABLE 9 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-9-7 A Culhane 6
504 -421 EURO VENTURE 24 (CD) D Nicholls 4-9-6 Alex Greaves 9
505 0642 JOHN BOWDLER MUSIC 9 (D) M Johnston 4-9-3 R FitzPatrick (5) 4
506 3521 MAITEAMIA 10 (B,CD,G,S) S Bowring 6-9-3 J Quinn 8
507 016- MOET 97 (BF,CD,G) J Eyre 4-8-13 C Lowther 1
508 41-0 INDIAN BLAZE 59 (D,S) D Elsworth 5-8-13 N Pollard (3) 7
509 0152 NIFTY NORMAN 10 (CD,G,S) D Nicholls 5-8-10 F Norton 12
510 00/6 SUPREME MAIMOON 10 M Polglase 5-8-8 C Teague (3) 5
511 4105 BARITONE 9 (V,CD) S Kettlewell 5-8-1 R Winston (3) 2
512 -042 RUDE AWAKENING 10 (B,CD,F) C Fairhurst 5-7-12 I Grantham (7) 10

7-2 Redoubtable, 5-1 Ocker, 11-2 Euro Venture, 13-2 John Bowdler Music, 7-1 Moet, 8-1 Maiteamia, 10-1 Rude Awakening, 12-1 others.

4.10 RUFFORD SELLING STAKES
(£1,973: 1m) (16)

601 16-4 SCATHEBURY 24 (BF,D,F,S) K Burke 6-9-4 K Fallon 15
602 2300 TIME OUT 10 (C) M Polglase 4-8-13 C Lowther 3
603 4040 ADIRPOUR 2 R Hollinshead 5-8-12 D Sweeney 11
604 0-60 AMBER REGENT 16 Miss S Wilton 4-8-12 N Pollard (3) 12
605 4632 AWESOME VENTURE 7 (CD,S) M Chapman 9-8-12 S Righton (7) 5
606 2-03 BROCTUNE LINE 31 (CD) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-12 A Culhane 16
607 0000 CHEERFUL GROOM 21 (D,F) D Shaw 8-8-12 P Fitzsimons (7) 13
608 00-0 COURTNEY GYM 11 P Burgoyne 4-8-12 J Tate 9
609 3-63 CROFTERS EDGE 16 A Jarvis 4-8-12 L Newton 10
610 -405 FUTURE PROSPECT 11 (D,F,S) M A Buckley 5-8-12 G Carter 2
611 43- INCH PERFECT 96J J Hetherton 4-8-12 R Lappin 8
612 00-0 JOHNNY STACCATO 7 (G,S) M Quinn 5-8-12 J Weaver 6
613 0060 LIFT BOY 23 (F,G) P Burgoyne 10-8-12 R Painter 4
614 00'0 MHEANMETOO 39J (F) A P Jones 8-8-12 F Norton 7
615 00-0 PINE RIDGE LAD 7 (CD,F,G) J L Harris 9-8-12 J Quinn 1
616 4030 SHARP MONKEY 24 (V,CD) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-12 P McCabe 14

7-2 Scathebury, 9-2 Awesome Venture, 5-1 Broctune Line, 7-1 Crofters Edge, 10-1 Future Prospect, 12-1 Time Out, 14-1 others.

4.40 TUXFORD HANDICAP
(Div I: £1,903: 1m 4f) (11)

1 3252 SWIFT 7 (F,G) M Polglase 5-10-0 K Fallon 5
2 51-3 JOHNNIE THE JOKER 10 (B,CD,G) J Leigh 8-9-10 Dean McKeown 8
3 5015 COLONEL CUSTER 5 (BF,C) J Pearce 4-9-9 G Bardwell 1
4 5164 VINCENT 10 (CD) J L Harris 4-9-0 J Weaver 2
5 5042 ALDWYCH ARROW 14 (B,F,S) M A Buckley 4-8-11 J Fanning 10
6 -044 AJDAR 18 (V,CD) Miss S Lamyman 8-8-10 J Quinn 6
7 00-1 LINEA-G 7 (CD) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-8 (6ex) A Culhane 11
8 000- MADAM LUCY 261 (V) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-5 P McCabe 9
9 -005 NORTH ARDAR 11 (C,D,F,G) R Brotherton 9-8-1 F Norton 7
10 0-56 MYSTERIUM 16 N Littmoden 5-7-13 J Tate 3
11 2-00 POLAR REFRAIN 21 (S) J Eyre 6-7-10 P M Quinn (7) 4

3-1 Linea-G, 5-1 Swift, Colonel Custer, 6-1 Vincent, Aldwych Arrow, 7-1 Johnnie The Joker, 14-1 Ajdar, 20-1 others.

5.10 TUXFORD HANDICAP
(Div II: £1,893: 1m 4f) (11)

1 040- STATAJACK 91 (B,C,D,F,G,S) D Elsworth 11-9-12 N Pollard (3) 5
2 3/21 HIBERNATE 13 (D) K Burke 5-9-9 D Sweeney 4
3 1-05 RIVER CAPTAIN 21 (CD) D Murray Smith 6-9-2 C Lowther 2
4 000- JACK THE LAD 295 (F,G,S) J Hetherton 5-8-12 M Tebbutt 7
5 513- SKYERS A KITE 144 (D,G) Ron Thompson 4-8-11 T Williams 3
6 000- INDY KNIGHT 161 R Peacock 4-8-10 A Culhane 9
7 -200 MACH ONE 17 (B) M Prescott 4-8-7 G Duffield 8
8 405- APPROVED QUALITY 204 F Murphy 6-8-5 J Quinn 1
9 0-05 KARINSKA 21 (C,F,G,S) M Chapman 9-8-0 S Righton (7) 6
10 0-41 JANE ANN 4 A Jarvis 5-7-12 (6ex) Martin Dwyer 10
11 0-06 THE COTTONWOOL KID 14 (V) Mrs A Naughton 7-7-10 Iona Wands (5) 11

2-1 Hibernate, 11-2 Mach One, 13-2 Statajack, 7-1 Skyers A Kite, 8-1 River Captain, 10-1 Approved Quality, 12-1 Jane Ann, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss S Hall, 5 winners from 7 runners, 71.4%; M Prescott, 25 from 83, 30.1%; K Bell, 3 from 10, 30.0%; Miss S Wilton, 11 from 39, 28.2%; M Johnston, 43 from 218, 19.7%.

JOCKEYS: R FitzPatrick, 8 winners from 27 rides, 29.6%; N Day, 8 from 37, 21.6%; G Hannon, 3 from 14, 21.4%; K Fallon, 19 from 90, 21.1%; N Pollard, 6 from 29, 20.7%; Kimberley Hart, 11 from 54, 20.4%.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Newbury

Going: soft

1.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Gris d'Estruval** (A P McCoy, 1-3 fav); 2, Son of Anchan (11-2); 3, Tree Creeper (10-1). 6 ran. 4l, 30l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £2.20. DF: £2.00. CSF: £2.53.

2.15 (2m 5f hdle) 1, **Rash Remark** (A P McCoy, 4-6 fav); 2, Boro Sovereign (8-1); 3, Yeoman Sailor (13-1). 11 ran. 11l, 4l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £4.20. CSF: £6.47.

2.45 (3m ch) 1, **Careysville** (A P McCoy, 7-4 fav); 2, Cheval de Guerre (2-1); 3, Paradise Handy (7-1). 4 ran. 9l, 7l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £2.70. DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.38.

3.15 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Ricardo** (R Dunwoody, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Perfect Venue (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Kinnescash (5-1). 5 ran. 5l, 3½l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £1.50. DF: £2.80. CSF: £7.25.

3.50 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Ashwell Boy** (R Dunwoody, 10-11 fav); 2, Bous (7-2); 3, Stately Home (13-2). 4 ran. 2l, 11l. P Hobbs. Tote: £1.70. DF: £2.30. CSF: £4.05.

4.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Heart** (M Batchelor, 8-1); 2, Copper Coin (100-30); 3, Pietro Bembo (evens fav). 7 ran. 2½l, nk. Miss H Knight. Tote: £8.70; £2.50, £1.70. DF: £12.90. CSF: £29.49.

4.50 (2m 110yd flat) 1, **Queens Harbour** (R Dunwoody, 2-1); 2, Gunnerbe Posh (16-1); 3, Lightning Strikes (15-8 fav). 12 ran. NR: Ballinclay King, Kings Grove, Matt Holland. 2½l, sh hd. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £3.60, £1.50. DF: £43.90. CSF: £33.14.

Placepot: £29.60. Quadpot: £21.20.

Huntingdon

Going: soft

1.50 1, **High Learie** (12-1); 2, Hag's Way (11-4); 3, Take My Side (5-2 fav). 6 ran.

2.25 1, **Be Brave** (4-7 fav); 2, Captain Biggles (14-1); 3, Stamford Hill (6-1). 10 ran. NR: Trust George.

2.55 1, **Ragamuff** (11-8 jt-fav); 2, Moonlighter (33-1); 3, Saras Delight (11-8 jt-fav). 7 ran. NR: Zambezi Spirit.

3.25 1, **North Tyne** (13-8 fav); 2, Queen's Ride (9-1); 3, Young Thruster (7-2). 8 ran.

4.00 1, **Oscail An Doras** (evens fav); 2, Mullaw Prince (6-1); 3, Coolteen Hero (9-2). 6 ran. NR: Specialize.

4.30 1, **Sursum Corda** (evens fav); 2, Heavens Above (100-30); 3, B The One (2-1). 4 ran. NR: Cipriani Queen.

5.00 1, **Molsum** (10-1); 2, Seize The Day (9-4 fav); 3, Whatebonnet (12-1). 10 ran. NR: Amillionmemories.

Warwick

Going: soft

2.05 1, **Charlie Chang** (7-4 fav); 2, Tanseeq (6-1); 3, Hydemilla (7-1). 9 ran.

2.35 1, **Saint Joe** (4-1); 2, More Tuney (3-1); 3, Burnt Honey (20-1). Arlequin De Sou 9-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Disco King.

3.10 1, **Oriental Boy** (evens fav); 2, Stormy Session (4-1); 3, Reaganesque (13-2). 5 ran. NR: Nild Dee.

3.45 1, **A N C Express** (5-1); 2, Rectory Garden (6-1); 3, Full of Oats (13-8 fav). 5 ran.

4.15 1, **Arkley Royal** (11-10 fav); 2, Sun Surfer (5-2); 3, Green Crusader (5-2). 3 ran. NR: Dictum.

4.45 1, **Castle Mane** (4-11 fav); 2, Desperate (25-1); 3, Rusty Bridge (6-1). 9 ran.

5.15 1, **Lady Padivor** (10-1); 2, Landsbury Lass (12-1); 3, Ester's Girl (14-1). Steel Rose 11-8 fav. 11 ran.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard becoming slow

7.00 1, **Approachable** (8-1); 2, Noble Patriot (20-1); 3, Scintillating Sound (16-1). Legend Falls 10-3 fav. 12 ran.

7.30 1, **Ultra Calm** (6-1); 2, Miss Take (6-4 fav); 3, The Last Word (6-1). 9 ran.

8.00 1, **Saguaro** (13-2); 2, The Wild Widow (16-1); 3, Areish (8-1). Powder River 2-1 fav. 13 ran.

8.30 1, **Lost Spirit** (7-2); 2, Raywara Boy (4-1); 3, Daunted (11-4). Love Blues 6-4 fav. 6 ran.

9.00 1, **Cameo** (12-1); 2, Chaluz (7-2 fav); 3, Dande Times (9-2). 11 ran. NR: Tilburg.

9.30 1, **Sounds Lucky** (4-1); 2, Avondale Girl (5-1); 3, Done And Dusted (12-1). Seven Springs 2-1 fav. 13 ran.

☐ **Doncaster was abandoned because of snow.**

LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	122	72	72	2	-100.28
Mrs M Reveley	80	60	53	3	-5.75
P Nicholls	69	62	24	4	-31.98
P Hobbs	69	52	41	2	-0.16
D Nicholson	58	53	50	9	-55.08
Miss V Williams	57	29	28	2	+8.46
N Henderson	54	41	31	3	+8.09
L Lungo	43	32	15	3	-8.07
N Twiston-Davies	42	53	36	2	-59.70
R Alner	35	26	23	2	-21.14
Mrs J Pitman	32	21	21	2	+35.72
G M Moore	31	21	19	3	+21.77
Mrs S Smith	31	29	33	5	-25.19

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	131	76	56	2	-102.98
R Johnson	101	101	96	1	-80.96
N Williamson	92	58	55	8	-8.35
M A Fitzgerald	92	53	80	8	+8.18
R Dunwoody	87	56	44	0	-30.08
A Maguire	62	49	49	1	-68.06
T J Murphy	59	38	32	3	+165.38
C Llewellyn	55	63	56	4	-128.05
W Marston	53	49	48	1	-0.58
A Dobbin	51	48	43	3	-81.93
J Tizzard	50	50	33	1	-64.06
S Durack	47	36	51	2	-74.44
R Supple	44	38	25	1	-33.59

Leicester abandoned

HEAVY rain over the weekend has forced the abandonment of tomorrow's meeting at Leicester. An inspection yesterday morning found that the track was unraceable.

"We've abandoned the meeting due to severe waterlogging," Nick Lees, the clerk of the course, said. It is the fourth meeting Leicester has lost to the weather this jumps season, which has been one of the wettest Lees can recall.

"It's as bad as I and our head groundsman can remember," he said. "You have to go back a lot of years to remember it wetter than this. We have now had ten inches of rain this year, which is approaching half our annual rainfall — and it is only the first week in March."

Leicester had been due to stage an all-chase card tomorrow, with an amateur riders' handicap and five hunter chases — one of which was won by Teeton Mill last year.

Thirty five National Hunt meetings have now been abandoned this season — just four short of the total for the whole of last term.

The abandonment of Saturday's Doncaster card because of snow means that the Tote Jackpot pool of £201,365 is carried forward to the all-weather meeting at Southwell today.





FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

TETTON TROPHY: Semi-finals: Croydon bt Northaven 79-70, Colchester bt Leicester 81-66. **Final:** Colchester bt Croydon 97-57

BOXING

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, London: International Boxing Federation inter-continental lightweight title (vacant): S Smith (Kentish Town) bt G Fear (Birmingham) rsf 7th. **Commonwealth welterweight title:** K Jansen (Ghana, holder) bt G Eastman (Battersea) rsc 11th. **International Boxing Organisation inter-continental super-middleweight title:** H Eastman (Battersea) bt J Penn (Portsmouth) rsc 3rd. **Cruiserweight:** K Ajibang (Swe) bt A Wright (Tottenham) ret 2nd.

ST PAUL, Minnesota: International Boxing Federation junior-flyweight championship: W Grigsby (US, holder) bt C Cacores (Phil) pts.

ATLANTIC CITY: World Boxing Association light-welterweight championship: D Reid (US) bt L Boudouani (Fr, holder) pts. **Middleweight** (10rnds): R McCracken (GB) bt S Fisher (US) rsc 9th.

CRICKET

First Test match
West Indies v Australia

PORT OF SPAIN (third day of five): At tea, Australia, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 226 runs ahead of West Indies.

AUSTRALIA: First innings

M J Slater c Dillon b Collins ... 23
M T G Elliott c Lara b Collins ... [illegible]
J L Langer c Jacobs b Walsh ... 5
M E Waugh lbw b Walsh ... [illegible]
*S R Waugh c Jacobs b Dillon ... 14
G S Blewett lbw b Ambrose ... 58
† I A Healy lbw b Walsh ... 15
S K Warne c Campbell b Ambrose ... 21
J N Gillespie not out ... 28
S C G MacGill b Ambrose ... 0
G D McGrath c Jacobs b Dillon ... 39
Extras (lb 19, nb 4) ... 23
Total ... 269

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-51, 3-53, 4-74, 5-118, 6-153, 7-186, 8-203, 9-203

BOWLING: Walsh 31-9-60-3, Ambrose 27-15-35-3, Collins 23-8-45-2; Dillon 26 3-4-69-2; Adams 14-2-41-0.

Second Innings

M T G Elliott c Joseph b Walsh ... 0
M J Slater not out ... 62
J L Langer c Jacobs b Dillon ... 24
M E Waugh not out ... 33
Extras (b 3, w 1, nb 3) ... 7
Total (2 wkts) ... 126

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-45.

BOWLING: Walsh 13-2-27-1; Ambrose 9-3-14-0; Collins 11-1-34-0; Dillon 10-1-34-1; Adams 3-0-14-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings

[illegible]

Total ... 167

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-28, 3-116, [illegible]

BOWLING: McGrath [illegible]

Umpires: P Willey (England) and E A Nicholls

Asian Test championship
Pakistan v Sri Lanka

LAHORE (fourth day of five): Sri Lanka, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 344 runs to beat Pakistan.

PAKISTAN: First innings 328 (Wajahatullah Wasti 133, Yousuf Youhana 83, Imran Nazir 64; Moin Khan 57; G P Wickremasinghe 6 for 103)

Second Innings

Wajahatullah Wasti not out ... 121
Shahid Afridi c Kaluwitharana b De Silva ... 84
Inzamam-ul-Haq lbw b De Silva ... 4
Saeed Anwar run out ... 45
Imran Nazir b Bandaratilleke ... 13
Yousuf Youhana st Kaluwitharana b Bandaratilleke ... 0
*Wasim Akram b Kalpage ... 17
† Moin Khan run out ... 2
Saqlain Mushtaq st Kaluwitharana b Kalpage ... 9
Extras (b 3, lb 7, nb 9) ... 19
Total (8 wkts) ... 314

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-156, 2-161, 3-227, 4-250, 5-254, 6-268, 7-296, 8-314.

BOWLING: Wickremasinghe [illegible]; De Silva [illegible]; Bandaratilleke [illegible]; Kalpage [illegible]; Hathurusinghe [illegible].

SRI LANKA: First Innings

[illegible]

Total ... 199

FALL OF WICKETS: [illegible]

BOWLING: [illegible]

Second Innings

[illegible]

Umpires: R E Koertzen (South Africa) and D R Shepherd (England)

Tour match
President's XI v England A

CAPE TOWN (fourth day of four): President's XI, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 297 runs to beat England A.

ENGLAND A: First innings 350 (D L Maddy 135, A Flintoff 70)

Second innings

D L Maddy c Masikazana b Smith ... 0
*M P Vaughan lbw b Kemp ... 26
M B Loye b Crookes ... 60
M G N Windows lbw b Abrahams ... 16
A Flintoff c Bruyns b Crookes ... 80
V S Solanki st Masikazana b Crookes ... 28
G P Swann c Townsend b Abrahams ... 6
† C M W Read c Masikazana b Townsend ... 13
S D Thomas c Crookes b Townsend ... 14
D A Cosker b Smith ... 8
S J Harmison not out ... 21
Extras (b 4, lb 10, nb 2) ... 16
Total ... 288

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-53, 3-105, 4-107, 5-203, 6-214, 7-233, 8-252, 9-255.

BOWLING: Smith 21-4-73-2; Townsend 21-5-55-2; Kemp 8-2-17-1; Abrahams 23-5-58-2; Crookes 20-2-71-3.

PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings

[illegible]

Total ... [illegible]

Second innings

[illegible]

Total (3 wkts) ... 142

Umpires: D F Becker and R Brooks

CYCLING

Road races

PARIS-NICE RACE: First stage (9.9km time-trial, [illegible]): 1, C Boardman (GB) 10min 20sec; 2, S O'Grady (Aus) at 2sec; 3, F Vandenbroucke (Bel) 6; 4, J Kirsipuu (Est) 7; 5, A Tchmil (Bel) 7, 6, P Gaumont (Fr) 10.

SILVERBECK RYMER EDDIE SOENS MEMORIAL HANDICAP (Aintree, Merseyside, 50 miles): 1, S Cummings (Birkenhead North End CC) 1hr 49min 55sec; 2, G Holmes (Acides-SoCon) at 2sec; 3, J Ramsbottom (Harrods RT) same time.

FENCING

KELVIN HALL, City of Glasgow men's épée: 1, R Leroux (Fr); 2, M Steifensand (Ger), equal 3, M Dennis (Fr) and C Moerch (Nor); 5, J-F Di Martino (Fr); 6, F Boulers (Fr), 7, B Kurowski (Pol); 8, J Jeannet (Fr) **British placings:** 32, M Bell 32; 46, O Berman 46.

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Saturday: Cardiff Devils 3 Ayr Scottish Eagles 4 (OT).

	P	W	L	OL	F	A	Pts
Manchester	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	165	86	65
Cardiff	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	144	102	59
Nottingham	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	140	134	53
Bracknell	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	139	145	42
Ayr	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	132	135	41
Sheffield	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	135	141	40
Newcastle	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	111	148	30
London	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	112	177	27

CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-finals, second leg: [illegible] Manchester Storm 1 ([illegible]); Nottingham [illegible] 3 (Nottingham [illegible] agg); [illegible]

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Buffalo [illegible] Boston 4, Pittsburgh [illegible] Phoenix 2 Detroit [illegible] Anaheim 3 Nashville [illegible] New York Islanders [illegible] Tampa Bay 6, Ottawa [illegible] Edmonton [illegible] San Jose 0 Chicago [illegible] Calgary 4

Eastern Conference

Northeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Ottawa	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	182	131	80
Toronto	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	201	184	75
Buffalo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	168	138	70
Boston	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	162	145	64
Montreal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	153	169	59

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
New Jersey	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	187	160	76
Philadelphia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	191	149	74
Pittsburgh	32	20	9	193	169	73
NY Rangers	26	28	8	176	174	60
NY Islanders	19	37	8	150	193	46

Southeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Carolina	28	23	13	164	157	69
Florida	22	23	17	180	188	61
Washington	27	31	5	167	188	59
Tampa Bay	15	42	5	133	221	35

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Detroit	32	25	6	190	160	70
St Louis	26	25	10	170	158	62
Nashville	22	35	6	148	204	50
Chicago	18	37	8	140	196	44

Northwest division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Colorado	31	24	8	174	156	70
Edmonton	25	29	10	178	168	60
Calgary	23	30	10	165	178	56
Vancouver	19	35	9	152	198	47

Pacific division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Dallas	39	12	10	177	122	88
Phoenix	30	22	10	153	146	70
Anaheim	29	25	9	169	153	67
San Jose	22	28	14	142	152	58
Los Angeles	23	36	5	145	172	51

OXFORD TORPIDS

MEN: First division: Exeter bpd Christ Church; Worcester bpd Magdalen; St Catherine's bpd Lincoln. **Second division:** Merton bpd Wadham; LMH bpd St Peter's; St John's bpd Keble; Balliol bpd University; Jesus bpd Hertford. **Third division:** Wolfson bpd Corpus Christi; Christ Church II bpd St Anne's; Magdalen II bpd Pembroke II; Somerville and St Hugh's bpd Keble II; Oriel III bpd Balliol II. **Fourth division:** St John's and Brasenose II bpd New College II; Exeter II and SEH II bpd University II; St Catherine's II bpd Wadham II, Jesus II bpd St Anne's II. **Fifth division:** Jesus II bpd Queen's II; St Peter's II, Magdalen III, Hertford II and Merton II bpd Wolfson II; Trinity II bpd Merton II; University III bpd University IV. **Women: First division:** Pembroke bpd Wadham; Somerville bpd LMH; Merton bpd Christ Church. **Second division:** St John's bpd Oriel; SEH, Queen's, Trinity, Balliol and Jesus bpd St Hilda's; Hertfordshire bpd Worcester; St Anne's bpd Hertford. **Third division:** St Hugh's, Exeter and Mansfield bpd Keble; St Antony's bpd Merton II. **Finishing orders: Men: First division:** Pembroke, Oriel, New, Exeter, Christ Church, Worcester, Magdalen, Brasenose, Queen's, St Catherine's, Lincoln, Merton. **Second division:** Oriel II, Wadham, LMH, St Peter's, Trinity, St John's, Keble, Balliol, University, Jesus, Hertford, Mansfield. **Third division:** Osler-Green, Wolfson, Corpus Christi, Christ Church II, St Anne's, Linacre, Magdalen II, Pembroke II, Somerville, St Hugh's, Keble II, Oriel III. **Fourth division:** Balliol II, Lincoln II, St John's II, Brasenose II, New II, Exeter II, SEH II, University II, LMH II, St Catherine's II, Wadham II, Jesus II. **Fifth division:** St Anne's II, Queen's II, St Peter's II, Magdalene III, Hertford II, Trinity II, Merton II, Wolfson II, St Benet's Hall, University III, University IV, Worcester II. **Women: First division:** Osler-Green, New, St Catherine's, University, Pembroke, Wadham, Somerville, LMH, Lincoln, Merton, Christ Church, Wolfson. **Second division:** St John's, Oriel, SEH, Queen's, Trinity, Balliol, Jesus, St Hilda's, Magdalen, St Peter's, St Anne's, Hertford. **Third division:** Worcester, St Hugh's, Exeter, Mansfield, Keble, Linacre, Corpus Christi, St Catherine's II, LMH II, St Antony's, Merton II, Wolfson II

ROWING

READING HEAD OF THE RIVER: 1, Oxford Brookes A 12min 27sec (Open winners); 2, Isis 12:37; 3, Oxford Brookes B 12:45 (Senior two winners); 4, Imperial College A 12:46, (Senior one winners): 5, Molesey A 12:48; 6, Imperial College B 12:53; 7, Lea A 12:56, 8, Queen's Tower 12:58; 9, Oxford University Lightweights 13:02; 10, Marlow 13:02. **Other division winners: Senior three:** Radley A 13:18. **Senior four:** Abingdon School A 13:48. **Women: Senior one:** Marlow D 14:27. **Women: Senior two:** Lady Eleanor Holles 14:49.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3d (Yokohama to Shanghai; with miles to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 356, 2, Antiope (K Harris) 378; 3, Thermopylae (M Tod) 384; 4, Serica (R Dean) 386; 5, Mermerus (B Sollars) 394, 6, Taeping (N Fleming) 418, 7, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 427.

SCHOOLS SPORT

ATHLETICS: English cross-country championships (at Luton): **Boys: Senior** (8,000m): 1, S Vernon (Greater Manchester) 26min 0sec; 2, C Livesey (Lancashire) 26.05; 3, C Boll (Berkshire) 26.21. **Team:** Lancashire 114pts. **Intermediate** (6,500m): [illegible] Farah (Middlesex) 21 22. 2, [illegible] 22.13; 3, S Abbit [illegible] 22.[illegible] **Team:** Middlesex 185. **Juniors** (5,000m): 1, S [illegible] (West Yorkshire) 12 15. 2, S [illegible] 12 18. **Team:** West Midlands [illegible]. **Girls: Senior** (4,500m): 1, H Dean [illegible] 2, E Ward (Staffs) 18 04; [illegible] **Intermediate** (4,000m): 1, J Nugent [illegible] 14.54; 3, [illegible] 14 38; 2, L Damen [illegible] Dobiskey (Kent) 15.02. **Team:** Kent [illegible] **Junior** (3,500m): 1, C [illegible] 12.56, 2, C Whicham [illegible] 13 27.

TENNIS

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Franklin Templeton Classic: Quarter-finals: L Hewitt (Aus) bt J Golmard (Fr) 6-1, 3-0, ret; M Woodforde (Aus) bt G [illegible] 7-6, 4-6, 6-1; A Agassi (US) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-4, 6-1. **Semi-finals:** J-M Gambill (US) bt Agassi 5-4, ret; Hewitt bt Woodforde 6-3, 6-2.

COPENHAGEN OPEN: Semi-finals: M Gustafsson (Swe) bt B Black (Zim) 6-3, 6-1, F Santoro (Fr) bt S Grosjean (Fr) 7-6, 6-2. **Final:** Gustafsson bt Santoro 6-4, 6-1, 6-0.

INDIAN WELLS, California: WTA Event: Cup: First round: S Williams (US) bt J Steck (SA) 6-1, 7-5; P Schnyder (Swtz) bt T Tanasugarn (Thai) 6-3, 6-4; C Black (Zim) bt A Huber (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt M Lucic (Cro) 6-4, 6-3; K Hrdlickova (Cz) bt T Panova (Russ) 6-4, 6-1; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt C Morariu (US) 7-5, 7-5; O Barabanschikova (Bela) bt A Smashnova (Isr) 6-7, 6-0, 6-2; A Molik (Aus) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-2, 6-4; I Spirlea (Rom) bt A Glass (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; A Stevenson (US) bt T Snyder (US) 7-5, 6-4; A Frazier (US) bt M A Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-6, 6-3, 6-2; M Saeki (Japan) bt M Serna (Sp) 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; M de Swardt (SA) bt R Grande (It) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4; C Martinez (Sp) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; C Rubin (US) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-4, 6-3; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt A G Sidot (Fr) 3-6, 6-2, 7-5; S [illegible] (US) bt S Pleschke (Austria) 6-4, 6-1; L Osterloh (US) bt B Schett (Austria) 6-4, 6-4; M J Fernandez (US) bt E Tatarkova (Ukr) 6-4, 6-3; S Testud (Fr) bt M A Vento (Ven) 6-1, 6-1; [illegible] Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt Li Fang (China) 6-2, 7-6; S Farina (It) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 7-6, 4-6, 7-5; B Rittner (Ger) bt D van Roost (Bel) 0-6, 6-4, 6-3; L Raymond (US) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6-4, 6-4. **Second round:** M Seles (US) bt Likhovtseva 7-6, 6-2; N Tauziat (Fr) bt Saeki 6-1, 6-7, 6-3; M Hingis (Swtz) bt Stevenson 6-1, 6-4

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Beeston 4 Old Loughtonians 3. East Grinstead 2 Bournville 2, Guildford 1 Teddington 7, Hounslow 2 Brooklands 3. Reading 6 Canterbury 3, Southgate 2 Cannock 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	18	14	3	1	65	25	45
Southgate	18	13	1	4	52	42	40
Canterbury	18	11	3	4	72	48	36
Reading	18	10	4	4	56	36	34
Guildford	18	9	2	7	60	68	29
Beeston	18	8	4	6	42	38	28
Teddington	18	8	3	7	55	42	27
Old L'tonians	18	8	1	9	59	61	25
Bournville	18	4	5	9	35	57	17
Hounslow	18	3	4	11	34	55	13
E Grinstead	18	2	2	14	44	62	8
Brooklands	18	1	2	15	30	70	5

FIRST DIVISION: Barford Tigers 2 Hampstead 2, Bromley 1 Loughborough Students 3, Firebrands 0 Doncaster 5, Harleston Magpies 5 Sheffield 3, Indian Gymkhana 3 Eastcote 3, Lewes 4 Chelmsford 3 Oxford Hawks 2 Havant 1, Stourport 4 St Albans 3. **Postponed:** Hull v Surbiton.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doncaster	17	13	3	1	61	19	42
Surbiton	16	13	1	2	69	22	40
Lewes	17	12	2	3	63	36	38
Stourport	17	9	4	4	57	35	31
Havant	17	10	0	7	42	35	30
L'borough St	17	8	6	3	34	26	30
Chelmsford	17	9	2	6	50	39	29
Barford Tigers	17	8	5	4	52	43	29
Indian G	17	7	6	4	48	51	27
Harleston M	17	6	5	6	48	46	23
Eastcote	17	6	5	6	41	47	23
Oxford Hawks	17	4	7	6	40	40	19
Oxford Univ	17	4	5	8	35	46	17
Isca	17	5	2	10	33	59	17
St Albans	17	4	4	9	48	63	16
Firebrands	17	4	3	10	37	49	15
Bromley	17	4	2	11	27	48	14
Hampstead	17	4	2	11	35	59	14
Sheffield	17	2	4	11	34	57	10
Hull	16	2	2	12	23	51	8

SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackheath 2 Winchester 1, Chichester 5 Richmond 3, High Wycombe 2 Beckenham 2, Old Cranleighans 3 Maidenhead 3; Old Whitgiftians 0 Herne Bay 4, Purley 7 Anchorians 2; Tunbridge Wells 4 Bournemouth 1. Wimbledon 3 City of Portsmouth 2; Woking 1 Fareham 1, Wokingham 4 Gore Court 2. **Hampshire/Surrey:** Barnes 0 Trojans 2, Camberley 0 Oxted 5, Dulwich 0 London University 4; Epsom 7 Fleet 2. Old Mid Whitgiftians 1 Haslemere 3, Oxshott 6 Andover 3, Portsmouth 3 Goan 1, Spencer 5 *Blandford 4*. **Postponed:** Old Georgians v Basingstoke. **Kent/Sussex:** Brighton 2 Rochester and Gillingham 3, Burnt Ash 3 Bexley Invicta 0, Eastbourne 2 Middleton/Bognor 5, Lloyds Bank 0 Folkstone 3; Mid Sussex 2 Old Bordenians 0; Old Williamsonians 1 Horsham 4, Sevenoaks 3 Marden Russets 4. South Saxons 1 Old Holcombeians 7. Tulse Hill 1 BBHC 1, Worthing 2 Ashford 2. **Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon:** Farnham Common 2 Gerrards Cross 6, Lions 2 Phoenix 0, Milton Keynes 4 Marlow 2. *Ashford 3 West Hampstead 2*, Newbury 1 City of Oxford 0, PHC Chiswick 1 Hayes 3, Richings Park 4 Hendon 3, Sonning 2 Old Kingstonians 3; Staines 3 Abingdon 0, Sunbury 0 Ramgaria 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ben Rhydding 5 Warrington 0; Durham University 6, Rotherham 1; Formby 1, Bowdon 2: Neston 1, Southport 1 **First division.** Deeside Ramblers 1, Lytham St Anne's 0: Stockton 2, Durham University II 4. Swalwell 7, Brooklands 0. Timperley 3, Springfields 0. Wigan 2, Doncaster 1.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Coventry and North Warwicks 1 Edgbaston 2: North Notts 1 Hampton-in-Arden 2, Northampton Saints 2 Olton and West Warwicks 2. **Postponed:** *Harborne v Shrewsbury*, Leek v Khalsa, North Stafford v Nottingham

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Blueharts 9 Bishop's Stortford 4. Cambridge City 3 Bedford Town 3. Cambridge University 2 Crostyx 2. Clacton 1 Ipswich 4. West Herts 4 Colchester 0.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: South Africa 1 Australia 3 (in Pretoria)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Saturday: Clifton 3 Leicester 0, Hightown 3 Ipswich 2. **Postponed:** Doncaster v Olton, Sutton C v Slough **Yesterday:** Slough 2 Clifton 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	12	9	1	2	44	21	28
Ipswich	13	9	1	3	33	17	28
Clifton	13	7	2	4	27	20	23
Hightown	13	5	7	1	26	20	22
Olton	12	3	4	5	24	32	13
Leicester	13	3	2	8	21	34	11
Sutton	12	3	0	9	16	30	9
Doncaster	12	2	1	9	21	38	7

FIRST DIVISION: Chelmsford 2 Trojans 2; Sunderland 0 Aldridge 1; Wimbledon 0 Canterbury 8. **Postponed:** Loughborough Students v Bradford.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canterbury	13	7	2	4	37	18	23
Chelmsford	13	6	4	3	26	17	22
Aldridge	13	7	1	5	16	16	22
Bradford S	12	5	4	3	24	21	19
Trojans	13	4	6	3	27	27	18
L'borough St	12	5	2	5	21	19	17
Wimbledon	13	3	5	5	18	28	14
Sunderland	13	1	2	10	9	30	5

SECOND DIVISION: Hampton 2 Old Loughtonians 1, St Albans 2 Ealing 0; Sherwood 0 Bracknell 1; Woking 4 Poynton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Woking S	13	12	1	0	48	16	37
Loughtonians	13	6	3	4	37	19	21
Bracknell	13	6	2	5	21	19	20
Ealing	13	6	2	5	16	20	20
St Albans	13	5	3	5	26	31	18
Sherwood	13	4	0	9	7	18	12
Poynton	13	3	2	8	26	40	11
Hampton	*13*	*3*	*1*	*9*	*20*	*38*	*10*

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashford 3 Blueharts 4; Bury St Edmunds 1 Dereham 0: Cambs C 1 Harleston 1; Sevenoaks 2 Letchworth 0. **Standings:** 1, Harleston 33pts; 2, Sevenoaks 27, 3, Ipswich II 22. **Midlands:** Luton 0 Crimson R 0. All other matches postponed. **North:** Chester 1 Leyland M 0; Liverpool 2 Deeside R 0; Sheffield 3 Winnington Pk 0. **Postponed:** Blackburn v Don Valley. **Standings:** 1, Deeside 34; 2, Chester 24, 3, Liverpool 23. **South:** Dulwich 2 Horsham 0; *Maidenhead 3 Reading 1; Rover 4 Tulse Hill 1*, W Witney 3 Hendon 1: Winchester 5 City of Portsmouth 1. **Standings:** 1, Rover 44; 2, Dulwich 44; 3, Tulse Hill 35. **West:** Bournemouth 2 Leominster 0; Exeter 3 St Austell 1; Exmouth 4 Cheltenham 1, Portishead 2 Colwall 3; T Vale 2 Redland 2. **Standings:** 1, Exmouth 36; 2, Colwall 36; 3, Exeter 30

GOLF

PENINA: Portuguese Open: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **276:** V Phillips 72, 68, 68, 68, J Bickerton 71, 73, 64, 68 (Phillips won at first play-off hole) **279:** R Karlsson (Swe) 69, 72, 71, 67; A Cejka (Ger) 71, 70, 70, 68; S Luna (Sp) 68, 72, 70, 69. **280:** A Wall 71, 69, 71, 69. **281:** D Lee 75, 70, 69, 67; C Hainline (US) 71, 73, 69, 68. **282:** P Broadhurst 76, 68, 71, 67, R Gonzalez (Arg) 72, 74, 68, 68, M Roe 72, 69, 70, 71, R May (US) 70, 69, 71, 72; F Jacobson (Swe) 68, 71, 71, 72, P Lawrie 71, 69, 69, 73, M Scarpa (It) 69, 71, 68, 74. **283:** I Garbutt 70, 71, 72, 70; G Norquist (US) 74, 73, 66, 70; A Cabrera (Arg) 72, 70, 69, 72. **284:** I Pyman 72, 70, 72, 70; D Howell 74, 72, 68, 70; P Mitchell 71, 71, 71, 71; R Boxall 71, 70, 71, 72. **285:** R Winchester 70, 76, 72, 67; R Wessels (SA) 71, 75, 66, 73. **286:** M Farry 76, 67, 72, 71; J M Singh (India) 73, 69, 73, 71; D Smyth 66, 72, 76, 72; A Oldcorn 71, 74, 69, 72; R Jacquelin (Fr) 72, 70, 75, 69, F Valera (Sp) 69, 72, 71, 74. W Riley (Aus) 72, 71, 68, 77. **287:** P Baker 73, 72, 71, 71, B Lane 72, 75, 70, 70; G Evans 72, 69, 73, 73, J Van de Velde (Fr) 68, 73, 72, 74. M Tunnicliff 72, 69, 76, 70, M A Jiménez (Sp) 68, 73, 70, 76. **288:** T Levet (Fr) 73, 70, 72, 73, J Rivero (Sp) 70, 74, 71, 73, A Hansen (Den) 73, 72, 70, 73, G Orr 73, 73, 69, 73; K Tomori (Japan) 68, 79, 68, 73, A Johnstone (Zim) 71, 71, 71, 75. **289:** J Coceres (Arg) 74, 72, 70, 73, D Gilford 69, 76, 72, 72; S Gallacher 73, 72, 70, 74, W Bennett 75, 69, 70, 75: J Mellor 72, 73, 73, 71. **290:** P Linhart (Sp) 71, 69, 75, 75, S Webster 70, 77, 70, 73, S Hansen (Den) 74, 73, 70, 73; R J Derksen (Hol) 73, 74, 71, 72, A Collart 71, 75, 72, 72, H Nystrom (Swe) 73, 73, 75, 69. **291:** E Canonica (It) 72, 70, 73, 76, S Bennett 72, 70, 73, 76, P Walton 76, 68, 72, 75, J M Arruti (Sp) 72, 71, 74, 74; D Borrego (Sp) 72, 71, 71, 77, D Hospital (Sp) 73, 73, 68, 77, E Darcy 76, 70, 72, 73, P Hedblom (Swe) 72, 75, 74, 70

LEADING EUROPEAN RYDER CUP POSITIONS (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 1, C Montgomerie 5,890pts; 2, D Clarke 3,453; 3, L Westwood 3,412; 4, M A Jiménez (Sp) 2,954, 5, S Struver (Ger) 2,660; 6, A Cejka (Ger) 2,438, 7, D Howell 2,302; 8, R Karlsson (Swe) 2,294; 9, A Coltart 2,162, 10, P Sjoland (Swe) 2,122.

CANBERRA: Australian Tour championship: Leaders after three rounds (Australia unless stated): **206:** P O'Malley 65, 69, 72. **209:** S Leaney 69, 71, 69. **210:** J Moseley 70, 69, 71; S Laycock 68, 69, 73. **211:** E Walters 68, 75, 68; M Cain 68, 70, 73. **212:** P Gow 73, 71, 68, T Carolan 71, 70, 71; C Spence 68, 72, 72; R Pampling 71, 69, 72, N Smith 70, 66, 76, P Senior 70, 69, 73. **213:** R Byrd (US) 70, 75, 68, G Coles 74, 69, 70; I Leggatt (Can) 72, 69, 72; D McKenzie 70, 68, 75, S Wearne 70, 66, 77. **Other scores: 217:** D Watson (Eng) 69, 71, 77. **218:** J Benepe (US) 70, 71, 77. **219:** R Gibson (Can) 74, 72, 73.

MIAMI, Florida: Doral-Ryder Open: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **205:** G Kraft 68, 67, 70. **207:** G Day 69, 71, 67; E Els (SA) 71, 66, 70. **208:** S Dunlap 67, 72, 69. A Bean 70, 69, 69. **209:** J Leonard 72, 69, 68, C Riley 68, 72, 69, J Haas 70, 69, 70; E Toledo (Mex) 68, 70, 71; K Jones 70, 68, 71, T Armour III 67, 71, 71; G Chalmers (Aus) 71, 66, 72. **210:** D Toms 70, 73, 67, C Stadler 72, 71, 67; M Weir (Can) 71, 71, 68, W Andrade 72, 70, 68, G Hill 71, 69, 70; P Jordan 70, 70, 70, B Burns 67, 72, 71, P H Horgan 69, 70, 71. **Other scores: 211:** S Elkington (Aus) 72, 70, 69, J Parnevik (Swe) 71, 70, 70; N Price (Zim) 72, 69, 70. **212:** G Norman (Aus) 71, 73, 68, P Sjoland (Swe) 72, 71, 69; G Hjertstedt (Swe) 69, 72, 71. **214:** D Frost (SA) 72, 71, 71. **215:** B Langer (Ger) 71, 73, 71. **218:** T Bjorn (Den) 72, 71, 75. **221:** O Serna (Mex) 73, 69, 79.

CRAWFORD BROWN / PRESS TEAM



Mark Steifensand, facing, puts his best foot forward to force Matthieu Dennis onto the defensive in the semi-finals of the City of Glasgow men's epée international yesterday

RUGBY UNION

Lloyds TSB Five Nations Championship

France 33 Wales 34

France: Tries: Ntamack 3, Castaignède. **Cons:** Castaignède 2. **Pens:** Castaignède 3 **Wales: Tries:** Charvis, James, C Quinnell. **Cons:** N Jenkins 2. **Pens:** N Jenkins 5 HT: 18-28. Att: 80,000
(at Stade de France)

Ireland 15 England 27

Ireland: Pens: Humphreys 5. **England: Tries:** Perry, Rodber. **Con:** Wilkinson. **Pens:** Wilkinson 4. **Dropped goal:** Grayson HT: 9-11. Att: 49,000.
(at Lansdowne Road)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	2	0	0	51	36	4
Scotland	2	1	0	1	54	44	2
France	2	1	0	1	43	43	2
Ireland	3	1	0	2	53	60	2
Wales	3	1	0	2	77	95	2

International match

Scotland 30 Italy 12

Scotland: Tries: Logan, C Murray, Townsend. **Cons:** Logan 3. **Pens:** Logan 3. **Italy: Tries:** Martin 2. **Con:** Dominguez. HT: 20-12. Att: 26,756.
(at Murrayfield)

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup

Quarter-finals

Newcastle 33 Bath 29

Newcastle: Tries: J Naylor 3, Cartmell, Vyvyan. **Cons:** Andrew 4. **Bath: Tries:** Lyle 3, Webster. **Cons:** Callard 3. **Pen:** Callard. HT: 19-29. Att: 735.

Waterloo 8 Gloucester 18

Waterloo: Try: Blyth. **Pen:** L Griffiths. **Gloucester: Tries:** Eustace, Greenslade-Jones, Johnson. **Pen:** Stephen Ward. HT: 3-10. Att: 650.

Jewson National League

First division

Lydney 3 Nottingham 11

Lydney: Pen: Merrett. **Nottingham: Try:** Royer. **Pens:** C Atkinson 2. HT: 3-8.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	22	18	0	4	642	272	36
Henley	21	17	1	3	515	266	35
Rosslyn Park	22	14	0	8	482	326	28
Otley	22	13	1	8	372	331	27
Nottingham	22	13	0	9	483	390	26
Wharfedale	22	12	0	10	413	306	24
Newbury	22	11	1	10	441	382	23
Reading	22	10	0	12	402	478	20
Lydney	21	9	1	11	319	387	19
Camberley	22	9	1	12	427	565	19
B'ham/Solihull	22	8	0	14	358	425	16
Harrogate	22	6	2	14	229	374	14
Morley	22	5	1	16	361	559	11
Liverpool St H	*22*	*4*	*0*	*18*	*283*	*686*	*8*

Second division north

Hinckley 34 Aspatria 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston G	22	19	0	3	663	298	38
Stourbridge	22	18	0	4	715	349	36
New Brighton	22	17	0	5	536	221	34
Kendal	22	15	0	7	515	270	30
Nuneaton	22	13	2	7	498	417	28
Sheffield	22	12	0	10	402	369	24
Sandal	21	11	0	10	549	471	22
Sedgley Pk	21	10	1	10	559	412	21
Aspatria	22	10	0	12	509	502	20
Whitchurch	22	8	1	13	361	505	17
Walsall	22	8	1	13	402	632	17
Hinckley	22	5	1	16	344	618	11
Lichfield	22	2	0	20	300	733	4
Winnington Pk	22	2	0	20	246	818	4

Second division south

Clifton 11 Barking 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bracknell	22	20	0	2	504	275	40
Esher	22	19	0	3	731	281	38
N Walsham	22	19	0	3	507	241	38
Barking	22	17	0	5	544	283	34
Met Police	22	12	1	9	391	443	25
Norwich	22	10	0	12	344	347	20
Weston-s-M	22	9	1	12	358	425	19
Tabard	22	8	1	13	361	381	17
Redruth	22	7	1	14	431	516	15
Clifton	22	7	1	14	331	429	15
Bridgwater	22	6	2	14	387	525	14
Plymouth	22	6	1	15	380	533	13
Cheltenham	22	5	0	17	291	529	10
Havant	22	5	0	17	276	618	10

MIDLANDS: Broadstreet 32 Syston 7. **NORTH:** Widnes 21 Bridlington 9. **SOUTH WEST: Postponed:** Barnstaple v Maidenhead.

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Rumney v South Wales Police.

Tennent's Velvet Cup

Quarter-final

Boroughmuir 16 Heriot's FP 15

Boroughmuir: Try: I McDonald. **Con:** C Howarth. **Pens:** C Howarth 3. **Heriot's FP: Pens:** Ross 5. HT: 16-3

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Currie 20 Jed-Forest 21

Currie: Tries: Bowie 2. **Cons:** Donaldson 2. **Pens:** Donaldson 2. **Jed-Forest: Tries:** Laidlow, Liddle. **Con:** C Richards. **Pens:** C Richards 3.

Stirling County 14 Hawick 24

Stirling County: Tries: Fraser, Wylie. **Cons:** Mailer 2. **Hawick: Tries:** Cranston, Suddon, Turnbull. **Cons:** Murdie 2. Sharpe. **Pen:** Sharpe.

Second division

Dundee HSFP 22 Kirkcaldy 32
Kilmarnock 29 Selkirk 14

Third division

Stewart's Mel 23 Ayr 19

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING MATCH: Repechage, first leg: Tonga 37 Georgia 6 (in Nuku'alofa).

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Otago Highlanders 65 Northern Bulls (SA) 23; Waikato Chiefs 17 Queensland Reds 19, Golden Cats (SA) 10 New South Wales Waratahs 39; Wellington Hurricanes 22 Western Stormers (SA) 24.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Saturday: Greater London Leopards 84 Sheffield Sharks 77. Leicester Riders 96 Chester Jets 107. London Towers 77 Derby Storm 66, Manchester Giants 94 Newcastle Eagles 92; Thames Valley Tigers 96 Milton Keynes Lions 69. Worthing Bears 78 Birmingham Bullets 92. **Yesterday:** Edinburgh Rocks 99 Greater London Leopards 80.

	P	W	L	Pts
Manchester Giants	30	27	3	54
Sheffield Sharks	30	26	4	52
Thames Valley Tigers	29	19	10	38
Derby Storm	28	17	11	34
Birmingham Bullets	29	17	12	34
Newcastle Eagles	31	17	14	34
London Towers	28	16	12	32
Greater London	28	15	13	30
Milton Keynes Lions	31	9	22	18
Edinburgh Rocks	29	9	20	18
Chester Jets	29	8	21	16
Leicester Riders	29	7	22	14
Worthing Bears	31	4	27	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE: *Men: First division:* London T 100 Brixton 66, Mid Sussex 106 Cardiff C 83, Solihull 86 Plymouth 93; Stevenage 84 Coventry 93. Teesside 119 Cardiff P 95 **Second division:** Bournemouth 91 Liverpool 84 Flintshire 64 Slough 67: *Manchester 84 Chessington 63*; Thames Valley 81 Birmingham 85 **Third division:** Barking and Dagenham 84 N London 69. Doncaster 69 *Hull 75* **Women: First division:** Northampton 61 Leicester 47, NW London 69 Ipswich 79, Rhondda 58 Nottingham 52. Spelthorne 58 Sheffield 48; Thames Valley 74 Birmingham 51 ***Second division:* Manchester 58** Wandsworth 49, Solent 47 Plymouth 58

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Boston 102 Denver 94, Indiana 83 Golden State 102; Philadelphia 78 Miami 89; Washington 86 Charlotte 85; Toronto 84 Orlando 89, Milwaukee 88 New York 87. Utah 106 Dallas 95, Portland 97 Minnesota 85 Los Angeles *Lakers 103* Seattle 100 **Saturday:** Cleveland 97 Golden State 80; Orlando 87 Detroit 82, San Antonio 114 Los Angeles Clippers 85: Sacramento 111 Phoenix 99: Houston 107 Vancouver 92.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	14	4	.778	—
Miami	12	4	750	1
Philadelphia	10	6	625	3
New York	9	7	563	4
Boston	7	7	500	5
Washington	6	9	400	6½
New Jersey	3	12	200	9½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	11	5	688	—
Milwaukee	9	5	643	1
Detroit	10	7	588	1½
Atlanta	8	8	500	3
Cleveland	7	8	467	3½
Toronto	5	10	333	5½
Charlotte	4	11	267	6½
Chicago	4	12	250	7

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	13	3	813	—
Minnesota	10	6	.625	3
Houston	10	7	588	3½
San Antonio	9	8	529	4½
Dallas	6	12	333	8
Denver	5	12	294	8½
Vancouver	4	13	235	9½

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	12	3	800	—
LA Lakers	12	6	667	1½
Seattle	9	6	600	3
Phoenix	9	8	529	4
Sacramento	8	9	471	5
Golden state	7	10	412	6
LA Clippers	0	15	000	12

ATHLETICS

Track and field

MAEBASHI, Japan: World indoor championships: Saturday: Men: 200m: Final: 1, F Fredericks (Nam) 20 10sec; 2, O Thompson (Barb) 20.36, 3, K Little (US) 20 48. **Heptathlon: 60m:** 1, C Huffins (US) 6 67sec; 2, E Nool (Est) 6.83: 3, L Lobodin (Russ) 6.87, 4, R Sebrle (Cz) 6.94; 5, T Dvorak (Cz) 6 95; 6, J A Magnusson (Ice) 6.99. 7, D Szabo (Hun) 7.05, 8, S Chmara (Pol) 7 14 **Heptathlon: Long jump:** 1, Nool 7 80m: 2, Sebrle 7.76; 3, Magnusson 7 69. 4, Chmara 7 62, 5, Dvorak 7.61; 6. Huffins 7 43; 7, Szabo 7.29, 8, Lobodin 7 16 **Heptathlon: Shot:** 1, Dvorak 16.70m: 2, Magnusson 16 08: 3, Chmara 15 89, 4, Lobodin 15.85; 5, Huffins 15 53, 6, Sebrle 15.27: 7, Nool 14.87: 8, Szabo 13 89 **Pole vault: Final:** 1, J Galfione (Fr) 6 00m: 2, J Hartwig (US) 5 95; 3, D Ecker (Ger) 5.85. **No jump:** N Buckfield (GB) **Women: 200m: Final:** 1, I Tirlea (Rom) 22.39sec; 2, S Goncharenko (Russ) 22.69: 3, P Davis (Bah) 22.70. **1,500m: Final:** 1, G Szabo (Rom) 4:03.23: 2, *V Beclea-Szekely (Rom) 4.03.53*, 3, L Chojecka (Pol) 4:05 86. **Long jump: Final:** 1, T Kotova (Russ) 6 86m, 2, S Williams (US) 6.82; 3, I Prandzheva (Bul) 6 78 **Shot: Final:** 1, V Pavlysh (Ukr) 21.43m, 2, I Korzhanenko (Russ) 20 56; 3, S Krivelyova (Russ) 19 08 **Yesterday: Men: 60m: Final:** 1, M Greene (US) 6.42; 2, T Harden (US) 6.43; 3, J Gardener (GB) 6.46 ***Other British placing:* 7, J Livingston 6 63.** **400m: Final:** 1, J Baulch (GB) 45 73sec; 2, M Campbell (US) 45.89; 3, A Cardenas (Mex) 46.02. **800m: Final:** 1, J Bothe (SA) 1:45 47. 2, W Kipketer (Den) 1 45.49; 3, N Motchebon (Ger) 1:45.74: 4, B Koranyi (Hun) 1:46.47: 5, J Nolan (Ire) 1 47.77. **1,500m: Final:** 1, H Gebrselassie (Eth) 3min 33 77sec; 2, L Rotich (Ken) 3.33.98: 3, A Diaz (Sp) 3:34 46; 4, W Tanui (Ken) 3.34 77, 5, R Silva (Por) 3:34.99 **British placing:** 9, E King 3.46 59. **4 x 400m relay:** *1, United States 3:02.83 (world record: A Morris, D Johnson, D Minor and M Campbell)*, 2, Poland 3:03 01, 3, Great Britain 3:03.20 (A Condon, S Wariso, A Patrick and J Baulch). **High jump:** 1, J Sotomayor (Cuba) 2.36m, 2, V Voronin (Russ) 2.36; 3, C Austin (US) 2.33. **No mark:** S Smith (GB) **Heptathlon: 60m hurdles:** 1, L Lobodin (Russ) 7 81sec; 2, T Dvorak (Cz) 7 84; 3, C Huffins (US) 7 91; 4, R Sebrle (Cz) 7.94; 5, S Chmara (Pol) 8.05; 6, J A Magnusson (Ice) 8 09; 7, E Nool (Est) 8.16: 8, D Szabo (Hun) 8.18. **Women: 60m: Final:** 1, E Thanou (Gr) 6.96m: 2, G Devers (US) 7 02, 3, I Miller (US) 7.06 **400m: Final:** 1, G Breuer (Ger) 50 80sec; 2, F Ogunkoya (Nigeria) 51.25; 3, J Miles-Clark (US) 51 45 **800m: Final:** 1, L Formanova (Cz) 1min 56.90sec, 2, M Mutola (Moz) 1:57 17, 3, N Tsyganova (Russ) 1:57 47. **3,000m: Final:** 1, G Szabo (Rom) 8:36 42: *2, Z Ouaziz (Mor) 8:38.43; 3, R Jacobs (US) 8 39 14*. **4 x 400m relay:** 1, Russia 3:24.25 (world record), 2, Australia 3:26.87: 3, United States 3:27.59. **Triple jump:** 1, A Hansen (GB) 15.02m; 2, I Prandzheva (Bul) 14 94; 3, S Kasparkova (Cz) 14 87.

Cross country

UXBRIDGE: South of England veterans championships: Men (10km). 1, M Walling (Blackheath) 36min 26sec; 2, R Williams (Exeter) 36:27. 3, T Jones (Vale of Aylesbury) 36.29 **Over-45:** *1, S Owen* (Nene Valley) 36:38, 3, P Witcomb (Brighton and Hove) 37.10; 3, G Seward (Exeter) 37:24. **Teams:** 1, Nene Valley 39pts; 2, Brighton and Hove 69; 3, Blackheath 123. **Over-50:** 1, G Wootton (Woodford Green) 37:37; 2, J Willoughby (Queen's Park Harriers) 37 34, 3, J Exley (Oxford City) 37.48. **Over-55:** 1, R Graham (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 40:42; 2, A Matson (Crawley) 41:40; 3, G Harrold (Enfield) 41.45. **Teams:** 1, Oxford City 38; 2, Poole Runners 41, 3, Hercules Wimbledon 141. **Over-60:** 1, T *Paithorpe (Havering Mayesbrook) 41:51*, 2, K. Spacie (Thames Hare and Hounds) 42.49; 3, G Gee (Cambridge Harriers) 42:53 **Over-65:** 1, R Higgs (Barnet) 42:39; 2, R Pitcairn-Knowles (Sevenoaks) 46:00: 3, D Saxby (Leighton Buzzard) 48:02. **Teams:** 1, Verlea 92; 3, Blackheath 100 **Over-70:** 1, A Smith (Fairlands Valley Spartans) 59:18; 2, B Todd (Blackheath) 1:01:43; 3, G Keeling *(Fairlands Valley Spartans) 1:02:30*. **Women** (6km): 1, Z Hyde-Peters (Havant) 27:15, 2, J Harrop (Havant) 27:31; 3, A Murphy (Muswell Hill Runners) 27:44. **Over-40:** 1, C Doe (Poole Runners) 30:14; 2, J Ross (Winchester) 32:00; 3, R Miller (North London) 33:01. **Over-45:** 1, G Dean (Radley Ladies) 28:48, 2, A Heffernan (Veterans AC) 30:58; 3, D Marsh (City of Norwich) 31:25. **Over-50:** 1, P Rich (Serpentine) 31:52; 2, M Aurback (Ranelagh) 32:18; 3, L Gazzani (Bearbrook Joggers) 35:59 **Over-55:** 1, I Hornsey (Cambridge and Coleridge) 36:20; 2, A Bolitho (Trent Park Trotters): 3, J King (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex). ***Over-60:*** 1, P Jones (Ilford) 34:52; 2, M Holmes (Cambridge and Coleridge) 39:26, 3, W Redgrave (Trent Park Trotters) **Teams:** 1, Serpentine 47; 2, Bearbrook Joggers 103, 3, Hardley Runners 134

Road running

STRATHCLYDE PARK: Scottish 10km championships: Men: 1, G Stewart (Mizuno) *29min 38sec; 2, D Ross (Mizuno) 30:11*, 3, A Puckrin (Kilbarchan) 30:16 **Teams:** 1, Mizuno 87pts, 2, Strathclyde 151, 3, City of Edinburgh 208. **Women:** 1, F Lothian (Fife) 35:08; 2, T Thompson (Babcock Pitreavie) 35.15; 3, S Fairweather (Glasgow University) 35.32 **Teams:** 1, City of Glasgow 20pts, 2, Glasgow University 42; 3, Strathkelvin Ladies 49

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Bradford 18 Sheffield 6

Bradford: Tries: Lowes, McAvoy, Withers. **Goals:** H Paul 3. **Sheffield: Try:** Watson. **Goal:** Aston. Att: 12,044.

Castleford 12 Wakefield 10

Castleford: Try: Maloney. **Goals:** Orr 4. **Wakefield: Tries:** Crouthers, Poching. **Goal:** Hodgson. Att: 7,233.

Halifax 14 Warrington 16

Halifax: Tries: Moana, Pinkney. **Goals:** Holroyd 3. **Warrington: Tries:** Kohe-Love, McCurrie, Penny. **Goals:** Briers 2. Att: 4,679.

London 24 Huddersfield 18

London: Tries: Fleming, Hammond, Offiah, Tollett. **Goals:** Warton 4 **Huddersfield: Tries:** Cheetham 2, Weston. **Goals:** Goulding 3. Att: 2,278.

Salford 12 St Helens 30

Salford: Tries: Crompton, Hayes. **Goals:** *Blakeley 2*. **St Helens: Tries:** Long 3, Newlove 2, Sculthorpe. **Goals:** Long 3. Att: 6,378.

Northern Ford Premiership

Barrow 30 Featherstone 10

Barrow: Tries: Rhodes 2, Luxon, Manihera, Whitter. **Goals:** Holt 5. **Featherstone: Tries:** Bramald, Simonds. **Goal:** Chapman. Att: 1,138.

Batley 8 Hunslet 14

Batley: Tries: Price 2. **Hunslet: Tries:** Fatnowna, Fletcher. **Goals:** Fletcher 3. Att: 847.

Keighley 8 York 10

Keighley: Tries: Calvert, Larder. **York: Tries:** Benn, Lambert. **Goal:** Benn. Att: 1,678.

Lancashire 22 Dewsbury 12

Lancashire Lynx: Tries: P Jones 2, Walsh. **Goals:** P Jones 4 **Dropped goals:** Flanagan 2. **Dewsbury: Try:** Godfrey. **Goals:** Eaton 4. Att: 350.

Leigh 24 Whitehaven 20

Leigh: Tries: K Purtill 2, Hadcroft, Hilton, Murray. **Goals:** D Purtill 2. **Whitehaven: Tries:** Seeds 2, Kitchen. **Goals:** Kitchen 4. Att: 1,124.

Swinton 23 Bramley [illegible]

Swinton: Tries: Cleary, Eccles, McCabe. **Goals:** Watson 4, Gartland. **Dropped goal:** Gartland. **Bramley: Try:** A Gibbons. **Goals:** A Gibbons 2. Att: 887.

Widnes 6 Rochdale 2

Widnes: Goals: Hewitt 3. **Rochdale: Goal:** Fitzgerald. Att: 2,684.

Workington 22 Doncaster 22

Workington: Tries: Forber 2; Close. **Goals:** Close 5. **Doncaster: Tries:** Alfie Goulbourne 2, Okul, Sommerhill. **Goals:** Creasser 3. Att: 1,000.

POSTPONED: Hull KR v Oldham.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam 8 Walney Central 8; Saddleworth 35 Castleford Lock Lane 6; Skirlaugh 28 Leigh MR 10. **Postponed:** Beverley East Hull v Oldham St Annes; Heworth v West Hull; Thornhill v Egremont; Wigan St Patrick's v Woolston. **First division:** Barrow Island 16 East Leeds 32; Leigh East 52 Rochdale Mayfield 20. **Postponed:** Dudley Hill v Featherstone Lions; Milford v Wigan St Jude's; Oulton v Moldgreen; Redhill v Shaw Cross; Siddal v Millom. **Second division:** York Acorn 17 New Earswick 16. **Postponed:** *Blackbrook v Keighley Alb*; Ideal Isberg v Dewsbury Moor; Normanton v Dodworth; Ovenden v London Skolars; Crosfields v Eccles.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Saturday: Newcastle 41 Manly 18; Parramatta 20 St George-Illawarra 10. **Sunday:** North Sydney 30 Western Suburbs 12; Cronulla 44 Balmain 0; South Sydney 16 Canterbury 14.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated

Auto Windscreens Shield

Northern section

Semi-final

Rochdale v Wigan (7.45) ....

Tennent's Scottish Cup

Fifth round

Greenock Morton v Celtic (7.45) ....

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Worcester City v Salisbury

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Boreham Wood v Marlow; Maidenhead v Sutton Utd **Third round:** Chesham v Bromley

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: St Albans v Heybridge **First division:** Berkhamsted v Oxford City; Leyton Pennant v Leatherhead; Romford v Hitchin, Staines v Croydon; Wembley v Chertsey; Whyteleafe v Bognor Regis Worthing v Yeading. **Second division:** Abingdon Town v H Hempstead; Banstead v Barking; Edgware v Harlow; Hungerford v Wivenhoe, Met Police v Leighton Town Tooting and Mitcham v Hertford, Windsor and Eton v Bracknell, Wokingham v Northwood **Third division:** Camberley Town v Croydon Athletic East Thurrock v Tilbury; Egham v Wingate and Finchley: Epsom and Ewell v Clapton Ford Utd v Kingsbury; Hornchurch v Lewes **Puma Cup: Fourth round:** Dulwich Hamlet v Wealdstone.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Brighton (7 0), Watford v Arsenal (at Northwood).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Leicester (7.0).

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle Blue Star v Stockton.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hillingdon Borough v Somersett Ambury

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: British Isles indoor championships (in Bournemouth)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Barnsley (8 0), Bradford v Sunderland; Bristol City v Bury, Crystal Palace v Ipswich; Grimsby v Queens Park Rangers; Norwich v Port Vale; Oxford Utd v Huddersfield; Portsmouth v Sheffield Utd. Stockport v Swindon, Tranmere v Birmingham, Wolverhampton v Crewe **Second division:** Bournemouth v Bristol Rovers, Burnley v Manchester City. Colchester v Oldham. Lincoln v Wrexham; Luton v Fulham, Macclesfield v Gillingham; Notts County v Wycombe, *York v Blackpool* **Third division:** Barnet v Carlisle, Brentford v Peterborough, Brighton v Cardiff (8 0), Cambridge Utd v Hull. Chester v Scarborough (7 30), Halifax v Scunthorpe: Hartlepool v Leyton Orient (7 30) Mansfield v Exeter; Plymouth v Torquay; Shrewsbury v Rotherham, Swansea v Darlington.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Southern section: Final, first leg: Millwall v Walsall

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Hereford; Doncaster v Northwich; Hayes v Forest Green, Kettering v Farnborough: Kingstonian v Kidderminster. Rushden and Diamonds v Stevenage

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Dumbarton v Albion (7 30), Ross County v Brechin (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ebbw Vale v Aberavon (7 0): Llanelli v Bridgend (7.0). **First division:** Cross Keys v Pontypool (7 0).

CLUB MATCH: Sale v Scottish Districts (7 45)

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Varsity matches (at NHC, Milton Keynes): Men (2.30), Women (4 30).

TABLE TENNIS: English Open (in Great Yarmouth)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Quarter-final replay: Chelsea v Manchester Utd

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn v Everton (7.45), Derby v Aston Villa (7.45), Leeds v Tottenham (7 45), Nottingham Forest v Newcastle (7.45)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Stoke v Reading (7.45)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Clydebank v Falkirk (7 30)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: All-England championships (in Birmingham).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Edinburgh Rocks (8 0)

HOCKEY: Men's representative match (in Portsmouth, 2 30) Army v British Police

THURSDAY

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Greater London Leopards v Manchester Giants (7 0)

HOCKEY: Men's representative match (in Portsmouth, 11 0): Army v Civil Service

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Bristol Rovers v Fulham (7 45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Oldham v Barrow (7 45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle Eagles v Leicester Riders (7 30).

MOTOR RALLYING: Vauxhall Rally of Wales

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3 0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea v West Ham, Coventry v Blackburn, Derby v Liverpool, Everton v Arsenal; Leicester v Charlton: Newcastle v Manchester Utd; Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds; Tottenham v Aston Villa, Wimbledon v Nottingham Forest.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v West Bromwich, Bolton v Queens Park Rangers; Bradford v Norwich; Bury v Barnsley, Grimsby v Sunderland, Ipswich v Huddersfield; Oxford Utd v Watford; Port Vale v Stockport; Portsmouth v Crystal Palace, Swindon v Crewe, Tranmere v Sheffield Utd: Wolverhampton v Bristol City **Second division:** Blackpool v Wrexham; Bournemouth v Reading; Lincoln v Chesterfield, Luton v Stoke, Macclesfield v Colchester; Manchester City v Oldham; Millwall v Walsall; Notts County v York; Wigan v Gillingham, Wycombe v Northampton **Third division:** Barnet v Cambridge Utd, Brentford v Shrewsbury, Brighton v Darlington, Cardiff v Torquay; Chester v Scunthorpe, Halifax v Carlisle; Leyton Orient v Hull, Mansfield v Rochdale, Peterborough v Swansea, Plymouth v Hartlepool; Scarborough v Rotherham, Southend v Exeter.

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Doncaster v Hayes; Farnborough v Barrow; Forest Green v Kidderminster, Morecambe v Woking: Rushden and Diamonds v Leek; Southport v Dover, Stevenage v Cheltenham; Telford v Northwich, Welling v Kingstonian; Yeovil v Hereford

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aberdeen v Celtic; Dundee Utd v Hearts, Dunfermline v Dundee; Rangers v Motherwell, St Johnstone v Kilmarnock.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Stranraer; Clydebank v Hibernian, Falkirk v St Mirren; Greenock Morton v Raith. **Second division:** Forfar v Arbroath, Inverness CT v East Fife; Livingston v Queen of South, Partick v Clyde, Stirling v Alloa. **Third division:** Berwick v Dumbarton, Cowdenbeath v Ross County. East Stirling v Stenhousemuir; Montrose v Brechin; Queen's Park v Albion

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: London Scottish v Bedford, Northampton v Leicester (4.0); Richmond v Bath; Sale v Saracens **Second division:** Bristol v Blackheath; Coventry v Rugby; Moseley v Exeter Rotherham v London Welsh; Wakefield v Fylde, Worcester v Waterloo.

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Camberley v Manchester; Henley v Wharfedale; Lydney v Liverpool St Helens, Morley v Harrogate, Newbury v Nottingham; Otley v Birmingham/Solihull; Reading v Rosslyn Park. **Second division north:** Hinckley v Whitchurch, New Brighton v Kendal; Nuneaton v Sedgley Park; Preston Grasshoppers v Lichfield, Sandal v Aspatria; Stourbridge v Sheffield; Walsall v Winnington Park. **Second division south:** Barking v Bracknell; Bridgwater v Norwich; Clifton v Redruth; Esher v Weston-super-Mare, Havant v Plymouth; Met Police v Tabard. North Walsham v Cheltenham.

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Aberavon v Caerphilly (2.30); Bridgend v Llanelli (2.30); *Ebbw Vale v Neath (2.30)*, Pontypridd v Newport (2.30). **First division:** Blackwood v Dunvant (2.30); Bonymaen v Merthyr (2.30), Cross Keys v Tondu (2.30), Pontypool v Newbridge (2.30); Rumney v Treorchy (2.30), South Wales Police v Abertillery (2.30), Tredegar v Llandovery (2.30); UWIC v Maesteg

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: *First division:* Hawick v Currie; Heriot's FP v Boroughmuir; Melrose v Glasgow Hawks; Watsonians v Jed-Forest; West of Scotland v Stirling County. ***Second division:*** Aberdeen GSFP v Selkirk; Biggar v Kelso; Kilmarnock v Edinburgh Acads; Kirkcaldy v Dundee HSFP; Musselburgh v Gala. **Third division:** Berwick v Preston Lodge; East Kilbride v Ayr; Grangemouth v Gordonians; Peebles v Glasgow Southern; *Stewart's Mel FP v Glenrothes*.

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Buccaneers v Young Munster (2.30); Clontarf v Cork Constitution (2.30), Garryowen v Blackrock College (2.30); Lansdowne v Ballymena (2.30); Shannon v Galwegians (2.30); St Mary's v Terenure (2.30) **Second division:** Ballynahinch v DLSP (2.30), Bective Rangers v Greystones (2.30), Dolphin v Dungannon (2.30): Malone v Sunday's Well (2.30); Old Belvedere v Skerries (2.30); Portadown v Derry (2.30): UCC v Old Wesley (2.30); Wanderers v *Old Crescent (2.30)*.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-final: Castleford v Salford (3.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Final: Manchester Giants v Derby Storm (at NEC Arena, Birmingham, 7.0).

BOXING: Bowler's Nightclub, Manchester: European super-bantamweight title: M Brodie (Manchester, holder) v S Mechkoune (Fr). **European, Commonwealth and British light-heavyweight titles:** C Ashley (Leeds, holder) v C Woods (Sheffield) **Vacant British and Commonwealth flyweight titles:** D Kelly (Belfast, holder) v A Hanna (Birmingham).

HOCKEY: Women's National League: Premier division: Fyffes Leicester v Doncaster (12.0); Olton T v Clifton (12.0). Slough v Ipswich (at Cressex LC, 12.0), Sutton Coldfield v Hightown (at Cannock HC, 12.0).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Middlesbrough v Southampton (4 0)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Burnley v Preston (1.0).

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aberdeen v Celtic (6.05).

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Wasps v London Irish (3.0); West Hartlepool v Gloucester (3 0) **Second division:** Leeds v Orrell (2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

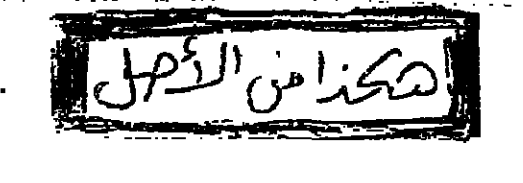
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SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-finals: Bradford v Warrington (2.30); London v Whitehaven; Widnes v Leeds.

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Dewsbury v Keighley (3.30); Doncaster v Batley; Hunslet v Hull KR (3.30); Rochdale v Leigh; Workington v Bramley; York v Swinton

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Birmingham Bullets (5.30); Edinburgh *Rocks* v London Towers (6.0); Greater London Leopards v Thames Valley Tigers (4.0); Milton Keynes Lions v Sheffield Sharks (4 0).







Court of Appeal

Law Report March 8 1999

Time limit not against EC law

Matra Communication SA v Home Office

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment February 25]

The three-month time limit laid down in a statutory instrument for challenging the terms of a public service contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Communities was not in breach of EC law, since in the absence of a sufficiently close comparable limitation period on similar domestic claims the government was free to set any limitation period which did not make it virtually impossible or excessively difficult to obtain reparation.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Matra Communication SA, from an order of Mr Justice Rattee made on July 31, 1998 on trial of preliminary issues in the plaintiff's action for a declaration that the Home Office was in breach of article 30 and/or article 3(2) of Council Directive 92/50 (OJ 1992 L209/1) on the coordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts, and/or regulation 8 of the Public Services Contract Regulations (SI No 1993 No 3228) by excluding systems based on Tetrapol technology from the terms of tender for public safety radio communications contracts.

Mr David Vaughan, QC and Mr Mark Brealey for Matra; Mr Charles Flint and Mr Adam Lewis for the Home Office.

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON said Matra was a French company specialising in the design of mobile radio telephone systems to be used by limited groups on a secure basis. They had a system based on Tetrapol technology. The main rival system, produced by a consortium, Quadrant, which included BT, was based on Tetra technology.

The Home Office was seeking a new secure radio system for use by police, and possibly by other public services.

Its specification for the contract called for Tetra technology, which excluded Matra.

Matra maintained that was a breach of the directly effective provisions of articles 30 and 59 of the EU Treaty and of article 3(2) of Directive 92/50 which required contracting authorities to ensure there was no discrimination between different service providers.

The Home Office denied the claims on the basis that European procurement rules required them to specify Tetra, as being the approved standard. That claim was not in issue in the appeal.

Before the judge, the Home Office had succeeded in having the action, in effect, struck out because it had not been brought within the time limit.

The issues in the appeal were:
1 Was the action brought promptly and in any event within three months of the date when grounds for bringing it arose, as required by regulation 32(4)(b)?
2 Was that requirement of regulation 32(4)(b) in conformity with EC law?
3 If so, was the judge correct in refusing to extend the time limit?

In his Lordship's judgment, on any sensible view of the facts, it was plain to Matra some 15 *months* before they issued their writ that they were suffering, or at least risked suffering, damage by reason of the configuration of the radio project.

The central issue in the appeal was whether the three-month requirement of the regulation was in conformity with Community law.

Did the limitation period cause the whole scheme of remedies, including the limitation period, to breach the UK's obligation to provide remedies for breaches of Community provisions that comply with the requirements of Community jurisprudence?

The European Court of Justice in *Palmisani v INPS* (Case C-261/95) ([1997] ECR I-4025, paragraph 27) had held that the state had to make reparation on the basis of the rules of national law on liability and that the conditions, in particular time limits, for reparation must be not less favourable than those relating to similar domestic claims (principle of equivalence) and must not be so framed as to make it virtually impossible or excessively difficult to obtain reparation (principle of effectiveness).

The domestic court, in applying the principle of equivalence must look not merely for a domestic action similar to the claim asserting Community rights, but for one that was in juristic structure very close to the Community claim. It did that by considering the purpose and the essential characteristics of allegedly similar domestic actions.

If there was no action in the domestic system that met those criteria, the national system was at liberty, subject to the principle of effectiveness, to set whatever limitation period seemed best to it for the claim in relation to Community rights.

His Lordship considered a number of possible comparators, including action for breach of statutory duty, action for breach of other directly effective Community rights, judicial review, and the provisions in the Local Government Act 1988 forbidding selection of contractors on the basis of non-commercial considerations.

None of those, as the judge had found, was sufficiently close in juristic structure to be a suitable comparator. Effectiveness was a very limited criterion.

Mr Vaughan had accepted that the regulations could not be attacked on that basis.

The judge had correctly refused to extend the time limit.

Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Hirst agreed.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Treasury Solicitor.

Clause applies to goods crossing frontiers

G and GB Hewitt Ltd v SA Namur-Assurances du Credit

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment February 12]

An exclusion clause in a standard form insurance policy covering bad debts which on its face referred to goods the export or import of which was or might become prohibited had no application to purely domestic trade but applied only to goods which themselves crossed frontiers.

It followed that the claim of an English meat wholesaler in respect of invoices unpaid on the insolvency of an English company which failed as a result of the ban on the export of beef was valid under the policy.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing the appeal of the defendant, SA Namur-Assurances du Credit, against the decision of Judge Kershaw, sitting as a judge of the High Court in the Manchester District Registry, giving judgment for the plaintiff, G and GB Hewitt Ltd in the sum of £16,647.39 with interest under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Simon Hilton for the defendant; Mr Craig Sephton for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the plaintiff was a meat wholesaler and processor. The defendant was a credit insurer.

On December 1, 1990 the plaintiff took out a policy of insurance with the defendant which gave the plaintiff some cover against the risk of bad debts.

Clause 12 provided for insolvency so that if a customer of the plaintiff became insolvent the defendant would pay the plaintiff 85 per cent of what the customer owed. The policy of insurance was renewed annually.

Between March 4 and 21, 1996 the plaintiff rendered invoices for about £39,000 to a large customer, Cornwall Meat Processors Ltd, in respect of meat supplied. On March 27 the European Union imposed a ban on the export of beef.

Cornwall, which had an extensive export trade, was badly hit and in May an administration order was made.

Under a voluntary arrangement under the Insolvency Act 1986 the plaintiff received some payment against its invoices.

In May 1996 the plaintiff claimed against the defendant under the policy. The defendant rejected the claim. In August 1996 the plaintiff began these proceedings. The defence relied on was an exclusion in clause 15.

The issue of construction was the meaning of clause 15.7.3 which excluded "losses arising from the delivery of goods or the rendering of services in respect of which the export from the insured's country of residence and/or business or the import into the same of such goods or services is or may become prohibited or for which HM Customs or similar export, import or exchange licences, or other prescribed consents are lacking".

It was submitted for the defendant that the clause applied at the time of delivery but if the export of the goods was subsequently prohibited they became goods the export of which might be prohibited and if so the insurer could rely on clause 15.7.3.

His Lordship said that clause 15.7 on its face applied to goods which themselves crossed a frontier. Reading clause 15.7 as a whole what was being contemplated throughout was that the goods themselves were to be imported or exported.

Under the terms of the policy the insured *might* be abroad but the customer had to be in the United Kingdom. The insured could be an exporter of goods which became the subject of some sort of prohibition.

If the insured and the customer were in the United Kingdom but the goods were to be imported to be delivered to the customer, or if the insured were resident abroad and supplying goods to a customer in the United Kingdom the clause could apply. The goods themselves had to cross a frontier and therefore the clause had no application to the present facts.

Lord Justice Chadwick delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Laws agreed.

Solicitors: Stevens & Bolton, Guildford; Aaron & Partners, Chester.

Queen's Bench Division

Working time is term of contract

Barber and Others v RJB Mining UK Ltd

Before Mr Justice Gage

[Judgment March 3]

Regulation 4(1) of the Working Time Regulations (SI 1998 No 1833) imposed a contractual obligation on an employee to ensure that an employee worked no more than the statutory maximum of 48 hours in any given week.

Where, therefore, an employee worked in excess of those hours he would be able to bring civil proceedings in the High Court and not in an employment tribunal.

Mr Justice Gage so held the Queen's Bench Division in granting a declaration that having worked in excess of the statutory maximum in a certain reference period the plaintiffs did not need to work until such time as their working time fell within statutory limits.

The plaintiffs, Mr Steven Barber, Mr Paul Bennett, Mr John Bentley, Mr Peter Buffin and Mr Alan Guy, were command supervisors, known as deputies, who worked in the coal mining industry. They were all members of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers (NACODS).

The defendants, RJB Mining UK Ltd, owned and managed coal mines in the Yorkshire area where the plaintiffs were employed.

In the 17-week period after the 1998 Regulations came into force in October 1, 1998 the plaintiffs worked in excess of an average of 48 hours a week. The plaintiffs were required to work at weekends, in excess of their contractual hours of 42 hours a week, in order to keep mines open.

On December 7, 1998 the defendants sent a letter to their employees in which they sought agreement to opt out of the 48-hour working time limit. NACODS advised its members not to sign an opt-out agreement until satisfactory negotiations with the defendants on wages had been completed.

On January 25, 1999 the plaintiffs refused to sign the opt-out agreement. However, each was required to continue working and did so under protest and without prejudice to the rights sought in the instant proceedings.

The plaintiffs sought a declaration and injunctions against the defendants. The relief was designed to declare rights claimed by the plaintiffs under regulation 4 of the 1998 Regulations and enforcement of those rights by means of injunctions.

Regulation 4 of the 1998 Regulations, made in order to give effect to EU Council Directive 93/104/EC of November 23, 1993 (OJ 1993 L307 p18), provides:

"(1) Subject to regulation 5, a worker's working time including overtime, in any reference period which was applicable in his case shall not exceed an average of 48 hours for each seven days.

"(2) An employer shall take all reasonable steps, in keeping with the need to protect the health and safety of workers, to ensure that the time limit specified in paragraph (1) is complied with in the case of each worker employed by him in relation to whom it applies."

Mr Brian Langstaff, QC and Mr Jason Galbraith-Marten for the plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Underhill, QC and Mr Anthony Sendall for RJB.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said said the crucial issue was whether paragraph (1) of regulation 4 stood alone, or whether it had to be read with and subject to paragraph (2). His Lordship did not accept that paragraphs (1) and (2) must be read together.

Mr Langstaff was correct when he submitted that to so would have the effect of reducing or making uncertain the limit of the maximum average working hours permitted in any week.

It seemed clear that Parliament intended that all contracts of employment should be read so as to provide that an employee should work no more than an average of 48 hours in any week during the reference period.

It seemed that that was a mandatory requirement which had to apply to all contracts of employment.

The fact that paragraph (1) did not state that an employer was prohibited from requiring his employee from working longer hours, did not prevent that paragraph from having the effect of placing an obligation on an employer not to require an employee to work more than the permitted number of hours.

Such an obligation was in keeping with the stated objective of Directive 93/104/EC (1993 OJ L307 p18) of providing for health and safety of employees.

Paragraph (2) did impose an obligation on an employer but it was a qualified obligation. As such it was different from the mandatory terms of paragraph (1).

It was one of those obligations the breach of which could be the subject of criminal proceedings. It could be that it was for that reason that the qualification was inserted.

Whatever might be the reason, the obligation in paragraph (2), was in his Lordship's view, separate and distinct from the clear and precise terms of paragraph (1).

His Lordship said breach of paragraph (2) of regulation 4, subject as it was to criminal proceedings, could fairly be said to be an obligation which could only be dealt with in the manner provided for by the regulations.

Having held that paragraph (1) of regulation 4 provided free standing legal rights and obligations under the plaintiffs' contracts of employment, it followed that to require them to continue to work before sufficient time had elapsed to bring the weekly average below 48 hours was a breach of regulation 4(1).

In his Lordship's judgment the plaintiffs were entitled to the grant of a declaration. The fact that the proceedings had to be seen against the background of negotiations and as a tactical manoeuvre in the union's dispute with the defendants did not mean that the plaintiffs were not entitled to the declaration sought.

The declaration would have the effect of making it clear that they were entitled, if they so chose, to refuse to continue working until the average working hours came within the specified limit.

His Lordship declined to grant the injunctions sought.

Solicitors: Keeble, Hawson & Moorhouse, Sheffield; Freshfields.

Litigant has no right to lay adviser in chambers

Regina v Bow County Court, Ex parte Pelling

Before Lord Justice Otton and Mrs Justice Steel

[Judgment March 1]

The right to act as a McKenzie friend, a lay adviser to a litigant in person, (*McKenzie v McKenzie* ([1971] P 33)) existed where a hearing was in open court.

Where, however, a hearing was held in chambers, the judge had a discretion whether to permit the presence of a McKenzie friend. The exercise of that discretion was subject to challenge by the litigant in person and not by the McKenzie friend.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, in dismissing an application for judicial review of the refusal of Judge Goldstein, on December 9, 1997, to permit Michael John Pelling to act as a McKenzie friend in chambers in a family case at Bow County Court.

Mr Pelling in person; Mr Rabinder Singh for Bow County Court.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the court was unable to accept that the common law had evolved in the provision of legal services to the point where there was now a right of a McKenzie friend to be present in chambers. The fact that legal aid might no longer be available in a range of cases where it was formerly did not create any right or greater status for McKenzie friends. Barristers and solicitors who appeared or assisted on a pro bono basis did so as of right, even in chambers, by virtue of their professional standing.

The fact that Mr Pelling acknowledged, and asserted, that he had a duty to "his client", falling short, as he initially maintained, but later resiled from, of a duty of care, did not assist him.

Mr Pelling might wish to call and think of those whom he assisted as his "clients" but that did not establish a professional relationship in any legal sense, except that possibly, where he did it for reward, an obligation arose to be present at court on the day of the hearing.

His "client", the litigant in person, must still seek the leave of the court for Mr Pelling to act as a McKenzie friend. The other side might object whether represented or not.

Where the hearing was in open court there was a right to a McKenzie friend. That right was vested solely in the litigant in person; there was no correlative right vested in the McKenzie friend. Where the hearing was in chambers there was a discretion in the judge to permit the presence of a McKenzie friend. Any challenge to the exercise of the judge's discretion could be made only by the litigant in person. He alone sought redress from the court.

The McKenzie friend had neither the right to be in chambers nor to impugn the exercise of judicial discretion to exclude him. In his Lordship's judgment, it followed that he had no locus standi to bring these judicial review proceedings.

Further, no general duty existed for a judge to give reasons for his decision to exclude a McKenzie friend.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Correction

In *Wards Construction (Medway) Ltd v Kent County Council* (*The Times* March 3) the appellant was Kent County Council, represented by Mr Malcolm Spence, QC, Mr Adrian Trevelyan Thomas and Mr Thomas Lowe, and the respondent was Wards Construction (Medway) Ltd, represented by Mr Gerard Ryan, QC and Mr Rodney Stewart Smith.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on *middle prices.*

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

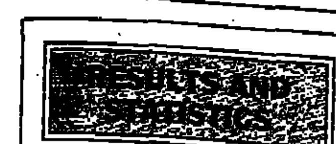
SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%



TODAY

Interims: Groupe Chez Gérard, Manganese Bronze, Trafficmaster. **Finals:** Brands Hatch Leisure, Bunzl, Candover Investments, CMG, Gowrings, Graham Group, Inchcape, Interx, Nycomed Amersham, Persimmon, Scottish Media Group, SGB Group, Stat-Plus Group, Try Group, Vanguard Medica Group, WSP Group. **Economic statistics:** January industrial, manufacturing output, February producer price index.

TOMORROW

Interims: Polypipe. **Finals:** BAT, BBA Group, Cantab Pharmaceutical, Caradon, Church & Co, Coats Viyella Group, Country Gardens, Crestacare, Expamet, GEO Interactive, Hampden Group, Independent Insurance, Kerry Group, Metal Bulletin, Norish, Harry Ramsden's, Senior Engineering Group, Waterford Wedgwood, Wilson Connolly. **Economic statistics:** BRC February retail sales survey, the Budget.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Rage Software. **Finals:** Abbot Group, Aggregate Industries, BICC, Bowthorpe, Cairn Energy,. Cordiant Communications Group, Countrywide Assured Group, Holmes Place, Mallett, Matalan, John Mowlem, Pearson, Pentland, PTS, Springwood, Terranova Foods, TI Group, Thompson Corporation, Xenova. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

THURSDAY

Interims: Diageo. **Finals:** Amec, Ash & Lacy, Cattles, Courtaulds Textiles, Cox Insurance Hldgs, Davis Service Group, Emhart, MJ Gleeson Group, Group Trust, Hemingway Properties, ISA International, Keller Group, Meggitt, Mice Group, Molins, Qualceram, Queens Moat Houses, Reed Elsevier, Rexam, Saatchi & Saatchi, SIG, Tilbury Douglas, Travis Perkins, United Biscuits Holdings, Wyevale Garden Centres. **Economic statitics:** none scheduled.

FRIDAY

Interims: Waterman Partnership Holdings, JD Wetherspoon. **Finals:** Alliance Resources, Enterprise Oil, Johnson Service Group, Maltacom, Reckitt & Colman, Regal Hotel Group, Shire Pharmaceuticals Group, Vitec Group, Workplace Technologies. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.





MICHAEL CLARK

BAT keeps one eye on US courts

BAT INDUSTRIES: These are likely to be the last set of results from the tobacco group, whose chief executive is Martin Broughton, before its merger with rival Rothmans, led by Johann Rupert, is concluded. Full-year results tomorrow, are likely to show pre-tax profits, before exceptionals, up marginally from £1.37 billion to £1.38 billion. But after stripping out costs relating to US litigation and the demerger of its financial services arm, the final figure will show profits down from £875 million to £767 million. Earnings a share, on the other hand, will be up about 7 per cent at 48p.

Once again the results are likely to be dominated by the ongoing litigation in the US after a court order for rival Philip Morris to stump up $51.5 million. BT Alex Brown, the broker, says that the unpredictable nature of the juries means that the risk to the tobacco companies is extensive.

But at least brokers will be able to assess prospects for the group once the merger with Rothmans has been completed. Most brokers expect the enlarged company to become more aggressive, especially in the high margin European market.

The payout is estimated at 24p.

RECKITT & COLMAN: These are troubled times for the household products group. Former chief executive Vernon Sankey was the casualty in January, following the group's November profits warning. And full-year results on Friday are expected to provide shareholders with further bad news.

BT Alex Brown, the broker, is forecasting a downturn in pre-tax profits from £299 million to £276 million ,with earnings a share declining by 6 per cent from 51.2p to 48.1p. That compares with earlier profits forecasts of £340 million.

Sales in the US will have been depressed by destocking while the real pressure for the recent profit downgrades came from margin pressure in Europe and exposure to emerging markets.

In the meantime, there is persistent talk about a bid for the company.The payout should grow, from 24p to 26.2p.

DIAGEO: Brokers will have their work cut out making sense of interim results, due out on Thursday. The impact of currency factors, disposals and the economic downturn in some of its world markets will have taken their toll on profitability.

At the pre-tax level, profits are expected to come in at about £1 billion, down from £1.2 billion last time.

Earnings a share, however, are likely to be little altered at 20½p.

Sales of spirits in both North America and Europe should be OK, reflecting similar outcomes recently from Allied Domecq and Seagram, the Canadian drinks group. But the numbers will be affected by the disposal of Dewars Scotch and Bombay Gin, required as part of the Government's approval for the merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan.

Burger King will have enjoyed strong sales growth, but rising costs will have taken the edge off profits, while strong trading at Guinness in November and December will have offset the ill-effects of the downturn in business in the Far East. There is likely to be some caution over Pillsbury's performance following a slow-down in the second half of last year. Profits are likely to be down, hit by rising raw material costs. The payout to shareholders will be down about a third to 8p.

PEARSON: An upbeat trading statement in December gave brokers a clear insight into the publishing group's prospects. As such, there are unlikely to be any nasty surprises when the group unveils final results on Friday. Pre-tax profits should come in at between £340 million and £360 million, up from £285.9 million last time. Earnings a share will be about 42p compared with 35p. Brokers will be anxious to see how Simon & Schuster is bedding down. Brokers expect it to provide the engine for earnings growth over the next few years.

Overall profits will have been boosted by a general improvement in AWL and £10 million of cost savings at All America, while losses at Channel 5 should be down from £15 million to £9 million. Strong circulation at the *Financial Times* will have been offset by investment costs.

Shareholders should expect the payout to grow 10 per cent from 19½p to 21½p.

REED ELSEVIER: There are unlikely to be any surprises when the Anglo-Dutch publisher reports final results on Thursday. Pre-tax pre-exceptional profits are expected to come in at £770 million, down from £823 million a year earlier, in line with the forecast given by the company in its trading update in December. Earnings a share will be around 26p, down 4 per cent on the 27.2p paid in 1997. The full-year dividend is likely to rise to between 15p and 15½p from 14.6p.

ENTERPRISE OIL: Brokers will be seeking any crumbs of information about the progress of the proposed merger with rival Lasmo when full-year results are published on Friday. But a growing number are becoming increasingly sceptical about the rationale behind the move with few obvious synergies between the two groups and therefore limited opportunities for cost savings.

Since news of the talks with Lasmo were first announced on January 11, the market has increasingly called into question Enterprise Oil's strategy. Shares in Enterprise have fallen by 20 per cent. If merger talks do break down it will have to send a clear message to the market on its future plans for growth, particularly in the light of the current poor trading environment.

This will be clearly reflected in the results with the crude price slipping to a 12-year low late in the year. On a current cost of supply basis, brokers are forecasting in a range from a loss of £10 million to a net profit of £10 million. Most of them expect Enterprise to pass the final dividend after signalling at the interim stage that it planned to rebase its payout policy going forward. The 1998 dividend is therefore seen at 6.9p against 17.4p.

The figures will include several one-off items, including small asset write-downs, restructuring provisions and a gain on asset disposals. These asset writedowns, which are due to the FRS11 accounting changes, are expected to total around £25 million to £30 million.

NYCOMED AMERSHAM: Final results today should show pretax profits of between £214 million and £230 million before exceptionals, in its first full year since the merger of Amersham with the Norwegian healthcare company in 1997. The forecasts compare with a pro-forma figure of £199 million. Analysts expect the first full dividend to be set at 5p to 5.6p.

The shares have suffered because of broker downgrades. There have been concerns over non-core operations, such as bad debts on the sale of pharmaceuticals into Russia.

But there are also worries about the company's ability to handle the decline in the US market for X-ray contrast media, though the company has in the past pointed to the growth in its other branded products, such as Iodine Seeds and Myoview to compensate for the decline. An ongoing cost-reduction programme is expected to have contributed about £20 million in the second half of the year, after £9 million in the first half, which should help to overcome the negative currency factor of about £18 million.

BBA GROUP: Full-year results tomorrow should see pre-tax profits come in between £164 million and £168 million compared with £156.7 million last time. Earnings a share will be up from 24p to between 25½p and 27.3p. Expect the group to declare a dividend of about 9p against 8p.

These results are likely to reflect strong profit growth in the second half and a positive business outlook as the group's strategy of building market share in its three core divisions is beginning to pay off.

The strengthening of its activities has led the group to become a prominent player in hygiene non-woven textiles, automotive friction materials and aviation services.

Many of the group's operations should be recession resilient because of the fact that their exposure to outsourcing or substitution trends should sustain demand.



Johann Rupert, left, and Martin Broughton hope to see BAT pick up speed after the Rothmans deal

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy BT, Caradon, Independent Insurance, Rolls-Royce. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy Electronics Boutique, Winchester Entertainment. *The Mail on Sunday*: Buy Alliance Unichem; Sell Game Group. *Sunday Express*: Buy Booth Industries.

Jensen snaps up former chief of Rolls-Royce

By Adam Jones

GRAHAM MORRIS, who resigned as chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars after a tortuous takeover battle last year, has taken on the role of non-executive chairman of Jensen, the once-mighty sports car company hoping to become an icon of British design again.

Jensen began making cars in 1935 but was perhaps best known for the Interceptor, which was introduced in 1966. Jensen collapsed into voluntary liquidation in the early Nineties but the marque was bought by the Creative Group, an automotive consultancy, in 1998 for a six-figure sum.

The new owners showed a prototype of a new car, the S-V8, at the British International Motor Show in Birmingham to great public and industry interest last year. Jensen said it now has £4 million worth of reservations for the model, which goes into production in the second half of this year and will sell at £39,500. It is to ask the Government for £1 million aid for the project and seek up to £1.5 million from venture capital groups.



Morris: new role at Jensen

Jensen hopes to employ about 60 people directly next year, with indirect employment in support areas taking the total of jobs created to between 100 and 200.

Mr Morris resigned from RRMC in July after BMW and VW, who had been battling for the luxury carmaker, agreed to split the Rolls-Royce brand from its sister marque, Bentley, in 2003, taking half each.

Budget likely to be on generous side of neutral

GORDON BROWN'S third full Budget will dominate UK economic discussion this week but will not necessarily dominate the financial markets, where the foreign exchanges may again be lively.

At home, most City economists expect the Budget to be slightly more generous than neutral against a background of buoyant revenue but a recession in industrial production.

A final clutch of monthly figures today will not cause a big rewrite. According to the median of forecasts gathered by Standard & Poor's MMS, UK industrial production fell by 0.3 per cent seasonally adjusted in January, making a 0.2 per cent year-on-year drop. S&P itself expects a 0.8 per cent monthly drop, but Philip Shaw of Investec Bank sees no change, thanks to a 0.2 per cent rise in manufacturing output. S&P sees manufacturing 0.6 per cent down in January. HSBC goes for 0.3 per cent.

Factory gate prices should present a better picture, with a monthly change of no more than 0.1 per cent either way. But



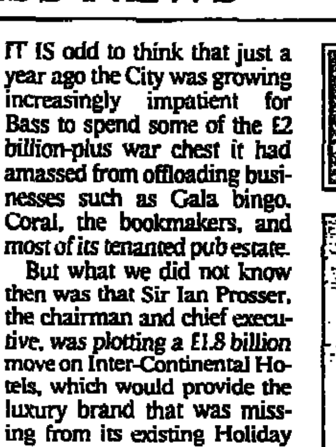
forecasts of raw material input prices vary widely after recent steep falls. Against a median fall of 0.2 per cent, S&P looks for a 0.8 per cent fall, but HSBC expects a 1.2 per cent rise.

Abroad, more gloom is likely from Germany tomorrow. Median forecast is for 10,000 more jobless in February. HSBC expects 22,000.

By contrast, expect evidence that America's economy can keep growing strongly with low inflation. Tomorrow productivity figures for the last quarter of 1998 are expected to be revised up to about 4.3 per cent. Strong car sales and more retail jobs suggest that US retail sales rose strongly in February. S&P expects a 1.1 per cent rise on Thursday, HSBC 0.7 per cent. The downside comes on Friday, with another $60 billion US current account deficit likely for the fourth quarter.

Graham Searjeant

CORPORATE PROFILE: Bass



THE FACTS

Market cap: *£6.4 billion*
Turnover: (year to September 30, 1998) £4.61 billion
Pre-tax profits: £834 million
Operating profit before exceptionals: £722 million
Employees: 80,000-plus
Overview: Bass describes itself as an international hospitality and leisure group, focusing on hotels, leisure retailing and branded drinks.

THE BOARD

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive since 1987, joined Bass in 1969, being appointed to the board in 1978 and made group managing director in 1984. Although his retention of the two top jobs does not accord *with best corporate governance* practice, the strength of the directors heading Bass's three divisions has tended to deflect any criticism. Sir Ian, 55, is a non-executive director of Lloyds TSB and is deputy chairman of BP Amoco.

The finance director is **Richard North**, *who joined from* Burton Group in 1994. He previously spent 23 years with Coopers & Lybrand. Mr North, 48, is a non-exec at Asda, Leeds Sporting and Fel-Cor Lodging Trust.

The head of Bass Hotels & Resorts is **Tom Oliver**, 57, *who joined the group in 1997* after spells with Federal Express, Thomas Cook, Hertz and American Airlines.

His counterpart at Bass Leisure Retail is **Tim Clarke**, 41, who was appointed to the board in 1996 and is a non-exec at Debenhams. The chief executive of Bass Brewers is **Iain Napier**, 49, who is also on Perry Group's board.

The director of personnel *and company secretary* is **Spencer Wigley**, 56, a solicitor, who joined Bass in 1992.

Bass has five non-executive directors, led by the deputy chairman, **Sir Michael Perry**. He is chairman of Centrica and Dunlop Slazenger and a non-exec of Marks & Spencer. The others are: **Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy**, chief executive of Kingfisher; **Roger Carr**, chief executive of Williams; **Robert Larson**, *chairman of the US* group Taubman Realty; and **Sir Peter Middleton**, acting chief executive of Barclays.

IT IS odd to think that just a year ago the City was growing increasingly impatient for Bass to spend some of the £2 *billion-plus* war chest it had amassed from offloading businesses such as Gala bingo, Coral, the bookmakers, and *most of its tenanted pub estate.*

But what we did not know then was that Sir Ian Prosser, the chairman and chief executive, *was plotting a £1.8 billion* move on Inter-Continental Hotels, which would provide the luxury brand that was missing from its existing Holiday Inn hotel business.

Even then, it took all Sir Ian's business and diplomatic skills to land the prize from un*der the noses of Ladbroke, Pa*triot American Hospitality and Marriott. The victory over Marriott was especially pleasing because the gung-ho American group was so confident.

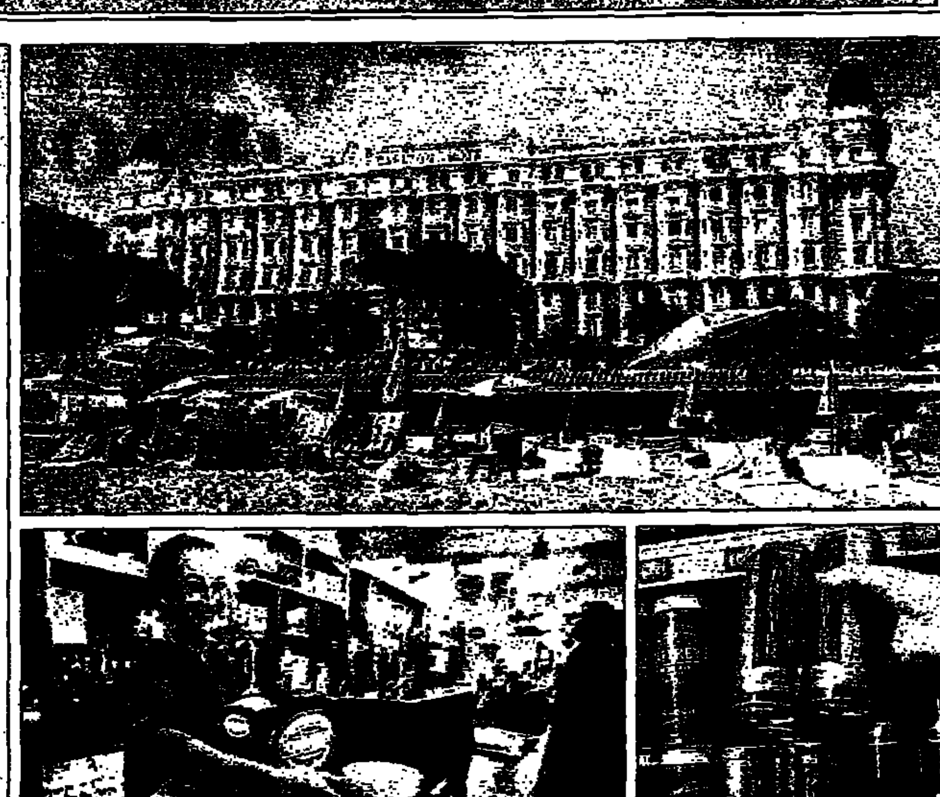
What Marriott had not appreciated were the niceties of dealing with Japanese companies. *Despite its precarious financial* position at the time, Saison Group, Inter-Continental's owner, was persuaded not just by the colour of Bass's money but by the way Sir Ian personally took control of the negotiations.

Aware of the painful loss of face that selling Inter-Conti*nental would mean to Saison's* bosses, he not only offered them an immediate solution to their financial straits but also drew up a master licence agreement for Saison to operate the Inter-Continental and Forum brands for the whole of Japan (although the future of the Forum brand is under review). This allowed it to retain an involvement with the company, thus mitigating some of the inevitable loss of face.

It is strongly rumoured that what finally clinched it for Bass was a private meeting between Sir Ian and one of the ultimate shareholders of the Saison Group — none other than Emperor Akihito himself.

The acquisition of Inter-Conti*nental has given Bass a sense of* completeness it has not had for many years. In a short space of time, mature businesses have been sold off and the money invested in faster-growth areas of the hospitality market. The feeling in the City is that Sir Ian has finally laid down the strategic platform necessary to take the 200-year-old company into the next century. His principal task now is to drive the enormous po*tential for organic growth his* strategic moves have created, although the current economic climate means that this may take slightly longer to prove itself.





Sir Ian Prosser has laid down the strategic platform to take Bass into the next century. It has a spread of top-class brands in each of its chosen areas, including the luxury Inter-Continental Hotels, its bestselling Carling lager and retail outlets targeting subtly different segments of the drinking and eating-out market.

Sir Ian's vision suffered an early hiccup last September when an apparently straightforward trading statement was interpreted by the City as a profit warning, sending the shares diving to 636p, compared with the record high of £11.75 in early summer in the wake of the Inter-Continental deal. Sir Ian is known to have been upset at the City's reaction. What he *had failed to appreciate was* the market's growing nervousness about consumer-reliant companies in general, and brewing and pub companies in particular. The additional revelation that product recalls had wiped about £15 million from profits in the beer and Britvic soft drinks arms merely fanned the flames.

Since then, trading in Bass Leisure Retail — consisting of *pubs, restaurants and leisure* venues such as Dave & Buster's — has got tougher and the group, in common with its peers, has reined in the massive high street investment in such brands as All Bar One and Edward's, and put in place a much more cautious capital expenditure regime. It has also initiated a significant cost-cutting programme.

Despite the worsening trading climate, the tough action taken by the company — allied to an appreciation that September's trading update was not that bad after all when set against its rivals — has prompted a partial recovery, and the shares now trade at 858p.

There is also a growing perception among analysts that *Bass is gradually shifting itself* from being an asset-backed company to one based on brands, such that it is able to leverage the benefits of having a spread of top-class brands in each of its chosen areas. In hotels, for example, it covers virtually the entire market spectrum, from the budget Holiday *Inn Express, through the core* Holiday Inn brand to Crowne Plaza and, at the deluxe end of the market, Inter-Continental.

The same can be said of brewing, in which Carling — the UK's biggest-selling lager — is complemented by Tennent's, while its Bass ale sits alongside Caffrey's and Worthington. And for the younger market there is Hooper's Hooch. Similarly, the various retail brands range from community pubs, through Toby, Harvester, All Bar One, Edward's and Browns — all of which target subtly different seg*ments of the drinking and eat*ing-out market. An unheralded but potentially significant move was last month's acquisition of the Alex Group, a German chain of bars akin to All Bar One and Edward's — described by Bass as "a toe in the water" in the continental market.

Analysts are also impressed by the balance that today's Bass has established between cash-generative businesses and those that require cash. The cash thrown off from brewing, for example, is rapidly reinvested in its hotel and managed pub businesses.

All this is a far cry from the company founded by William Bass in 1777 in Burton upon Trent. By 1800, under William's son, Michael, Bass ale was already widely exported, with more than half its production being shipped to the Baltic and the north German ports for sale in Russia, Finland and the German states. Such was its fame that Manet, the Impressionist painter, included two bottles of Bass in his celebrated *Bar aux Folies Bergère*. The bottle label incorporating the Bass red triangle — originally a shipping mark — *is Britain's oldest* registered trade mark.

It is a source of personal regret to Sir Ian that Bass bitter, *still marketed* as "our finest ale" on the label, is suffering from the general decline of real ale. However, the company last year restructured its brewing operations and appears to be well-positioned to capitalise on the strength of its brands, led by Carling, which sells a staggering 3.3 million barrels a year.

More disappointingly, attempts to use the Czech Republic as the base for a push into Central and Eastern Europe have hit problems. Prague Breweries, in which Bass has a controlling stake, continues to suffer from the Czech recession and the Russian crisis. It has just reported its fourth loss-making year out of the past five and minority shareholders have *complained of Bass's* "unacceptable" management. On the plus side, Prague's Staropramon lager is being exported into the US, Italy and Spain.

Another area of controversy is Sir Ian's remuneration. Last year, his total pay package rose 97 per cent to £1.6 million thanks to performance-related bonuses worth £300,000 and options worth more than £700,000. However, Crisp Consulting considers Sir Ian to be underpaid for someone of his seniority and experience and says the non-executive directors are paid reasonably.

Integrity Works, meanwhile, says that Bass has room for improvement on ethical expression. It says that Bass has a concise statement giving business conduct guidance, but its ethics materials are silent on some areas that are challenging many international companies, such as human rights. Bass, it adds, needs to consider addressing such issues in its ethics statements.

DOMINIC WALSH

"The company's basic strategy is now in place. They've just got to deliver. Bass are not impervious to economic cycles, but they have established a sound platform for growth in all three divisions. The group has a strong balance sheet and its growth should be capable of being financed from its own resources without recourse to shareholders."

Nigel Parson, drinks analysts, WestLB Panmure

"In the current environment, the Inter-Continental deal does, in the short term, look to have been expensive. However, we are increasingly of the view that the hotel market is holding up *and performing much better than feared. As a result,* we believe the acquisition will accelerate Bass's long-term growth in earnings and returns on capital."

Mark Puleikis, brewing and drinks analyst, Merrill Lynch

Ethical Expression[1]	6/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	10/10
Financial record	7/10
Share performance	6/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	9/10
Innovation	8/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	76/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by [1]Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting.

CSFB may face disciplinary body over Archer trading

BY CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CREDIT SUISSE First Boston (CSFB) *is expected to face a* Swedish disciplinary committee tomorrow over the share dealings of James Archer, the 24-year-old son of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare.

The committee could fine CSFB or ban it from trading on the Swedish stock market. Mr Archer, *along with David* Crisanti and Adrian Ezra, *members of the "Flaming Ferraris"* — named for their consumption of a £13-a-shot rum-based cocktail — were dismissed on Friday after a CSFB investigation into the group.

The Swedish authorities said last week that the deals done by Mr Archer in the *pulp company Stora* were almost certain to be referred to the disciplinary committee. If the disciplinary committee finds against CSFB, it will be the first time such an action has been brought by the Swedish authorities.

The investigation focuses on trades totalling around £700,000 carried out by Mr *Archer at the end of last year.*

New Covent Garden soup kitchen plan

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE New Covent Garden Soup Company is planning to open a chain of 200 soup kitchens that is expected to add up to £2.5 million to the annual profits of S Daniels, its quoted owner.

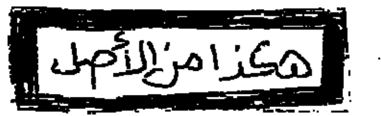
The first of the new franchised soup bars, known simply as Soup, has just opened in Hammersmith, West *London. When* completed in about five years, the full chain is expected to add £12 million to £15 million to Daniels' revenues.

The New Covent Garden Soup Company, which sells its chilled soups through leading supermarkets, is the largest and best-known of the acquisitions made by Cyril Freedman and Michael *Mills, who took* control of Daniels about three years ago.

New Covent Garden lost market share last year in the face of increased own-label competition. Shares in Daniels have fallen heavily over the past nine months, which David Hallam, of Williams de Broe, blames on unfavourable weather, *recessionary fears* and the poor performance of Marks & Spencer.

Daniels is spending about £1.3 million this year promoting New Covent Garden through television advertising. It is hoped the Soup bars will also support brand awareness.

In a note just published, Mr Hallam argues that *much of the chilled food sec*tor, which includes Terranova Foods, Geest and Hazlewood Foods, is significantly undervalued. He recommends buying Daniels, which on the Williams de Broe forecast of £6.3 million of pre-tax profits this year, is trading on less than nine times earnings.



Bus industry to be investigated over rising prices

By Arthur Leathley, transport correspondent

A COMMONS investigation is to examine taxpayers' £700 million subsidy of bus services, amid evidence that contract costs are rising by more than five times the rate of inflation.

A sharp rise in the prices charged by bus firms has raised fears among MPs that growing dominance by a small number of companies is forcing local authorities to buy more expensive services. The investigation by the Commons Transport Select Committee will examine the tendering processes that have seen a marked fall in competition and a rise in contract prices.

MPs will concentrate on the £290 million subsidy paid for local bus services outside London, mostly in rural areas. Contracts in the capital will also be examined, alongside some £400 million in concessionary fare subsidies.

The industry blames the increases on soaring wage costs in the face of staff shortages together with improved services, but the Commons Transport Select Committee is to demand a full explanation for the sudden rise in costs.

Several local authorities say they are powerless to obtain the best contract price for taxpayers because of a shortage of competing tenders. The four biggest companies — Arriva, Stagecoach, Go-Ahead and FirstBus — now have a stranglehold on the £3.2 billion bus industry after a spate of takeovers.

Research by the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers, representing local authority transport planners, has produced evidence of a sharp fall in tenders for many bus contracts. At the same time, English county councils last year saw a 16 per cent increase in the cost of reletting contracts, forcing the withdrawal of hundreds of services.

The inquiry, due to start next month, coincides with growing doubts within Government over a £150 million fund for new rural bus services. The scheme has been criticised for forcing instant decisions in setting up hundreds of new services, some of which are likely to be abandoned after only six months.

The Confederation of Passenger Transport, which represents the bus industry, has warned ministers of the dangers caused by a scheme that was rushed through after the last Budget. Veronica Palmer, Director-general of the confederation, said: "We do have reservations about the speed with which new rural services have been set up. It has caused problems because of the sudden creation of new funds."

However, the confederation defends increases in tender prices, saying that investment in new buses has led to huge improvements in services.



ISG, the AIM-quoted occupancy services specialist, is expected to reveal today that, at the halfway stage, it is well on the way to achieving forecasts of £3.75 million pre-tax profit for the full year. The company, which floated last July, will also announce its maiden interim dividend. David King, chairman and chief executive, is pictured at Hertford House, the home of the Wallace Collection in London's Manchester Square, which ISG is currently under contract to renovate.

Catmark for Isas is at risk of falling flat

The Government's attempt to introduce a Catmark label for financial products looked to be at risk of falling flat yesterday as it was reported that only 3 per cent of individual savings accounts so far created will carry it.

Only 30 of the 1,000 Isas to be launched next month are believed to have adopted the Government's Catmark scheme. CAT stands for Cost, easy Access and decent Terms.

The Treasury would not comment on figures yesterday, but said: "We are aware of a good number of schemes that fall within the Cat standard."

For equity Isas, the Treasury is giving the Catmark only to low-cost unit trusts tracking UK stock market indices.

Canary options

Paul Reichmann, chairman of Canary Wharf, is to swap his ten-year management contract for a big share options scheme when the property company is floated. His present contract, lasting until 2005, conflicts with City codes. Mr Reichmann will have options over £100 million of Canary Wharf shares, exercisable over seven years at well above the flotation price. A preliminary prospectus is due on Thursday.

Quicker payers

Britain's small and medium-sized companies have sped up their paying of bills, but still take an average of 46 days, a survey by Grant Thornton, the accountant, says. It found that their payment times had fallen by a week since 1993. The Germans pay in an average of 35 days, and Finns are swiftest, at 26. The Greeks take 87 days.

Red tape worry

Small companies' biggest worry is government red tape rather than a worsening economy, according to research for Royal Bank Invoice Finance. Of 300 surveyed, 63 per cent said red tape is a big concern.

B&Q to create 2,500 jobs

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent



Expansion strategy: B&Q directors George Bramhill, left, and Stephen Robertson swap roles to celebrate the anniversary

UP TO 2,500 jobs are to be created across the UK in a further expansion of B&Q, a division of the Kingfisher group.

The DIY retailer, which is already the market leader, has firm plans to open ten new warehouse stores and three retail supercentres. The announcement was timed to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the first B&Q opening.

The development will also mark B&Q's first move into Northern Ireland, with the opening of warehouse stores in Belfast and Newry. The new centres will be opened by the end of this year, adding to the 287 stores already operated by the retailer. Warehouses to open will include Canterbury, Halesowen in the West Midlands, Leicester, Liverpool, Northampton, Reading and York. The supercentres will be in Ashford, Cannock and Yeovil.

B&Q said it was keen to take on older workers. In recent openings, about a quarter of staff recruited were over 50.

Goldman Sachs votes today on float scheme

By Caroline Merrell, banking correspondent

GOLDMAN SACHS will today vote on whether to float up to 15 per cent of the bank in a plan that could pay each of its 220 partners about $100 million (£62.5 million).

The flotation plan is likely to value the bank at more than $20 billion. All 11,000 employees are expected to benefit from the float. Partners may start cashing in their stakes in three to five years' time.

The original flotation plan was abandoned at the end of last year because of the sudden fall in worldwide stock prices, which cut the estimated value of the bank.

A flotation is now more likely to go ahead because all members of Goldman Sachs's 15-strong executive are believed to be in favour of it. Originally, it had been feared that a deal of this type would change Goldman Sachs's unique culture.

The bank last week prepared staff for the change in culture with a series of corporate videos.

Goldman has 2,500 staff in Europe, most of whom work in London. Some 37 partners are based in London, including Gavyn Davies, chief economist, who could be in line for shares worth $50 million.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.66	2.48
Austria Sch	21.46	19.80
Belgium Fr	63.17	58.21
Canada $	2.583	2.375
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9041	0.8326
Denmark Kr	11.64	10.75
Egypt	5.70	5.09
Finland Mkk	9.39	8.64
France Fr	10.22	9.44
Germany Dm	3.071	2.829
Greece Dr	504	465
Hong Kong $	13.29	12.09
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17679	12679
Ireland Pt	1.2255	1.1365
Israel Shk	6.84	6.18
Italy Lira	3054	2817
Japan Yen	212.67	195.14
Malta	0.672	0.613
Netherlds Gld	3.467	3.172
New Zealand $	3.18	2.94
Norway Kr	13.35	12.41
Portugal Esc	310.63	288.60
S Africa Rd	10.60	9.64
Spain Pta	258.89	240.10
Sweden Kr	14.08	12.98
Switzerland Fr	2.520	2.302
Turkey Lira	594020	554537
USA $	1.714	1.571

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

Guess quits flagship site after Ong's withdrawal

By Fraser Nelson



GUESS, the US fashion house that spent a reputed £2 million launching itself in London, has shut its flagship Knightsbridge store after less than two years.

It has bought the franchise back from Christina Ong, the Singapore millionairess who is withdrawing from the UK after spending an estimated £60 million opening designer stores in London. The move comes amid fears that London's claim to be the most fashionable city in Europe will be weakened without the investment that the Ong family has made over the past five years.

Guess, based in Los Angeles, decided to shut its 5,000 sq ft store in Brompton Road as soon as it took over the franchise and will now trade from its newer store in New Bond Street. Guess runs its European stores through Maco Apparel, a joint venture with Fingen, of Florence. It said: "We wanted to concentrate Guess in just one location, and the New Bond Street store reflects our image much better. They were both profitable, it was just a matter of setting."

The Ong family is credited with rejuvenating New Bond Street by investing in state-of-the-art fashion stores, including the acclaimed DKNY. It has done this through Club 21 company, which has already sold its London franchises for Donna Karan, Prada and Bulgari amid a downturn in its fashion empire in Asia.

Club 21 said: "Both Guess and Donna Karan decided to change their strategies and own their own stores. This happened at the same time as we were thinking of selling, so the decision was mutual."

Christina Ong and her husband, Ong Beng Seng, still own Armani franchises in London and Glasgow, and hotels.

The Guess style: moving on

Clothes shops face tough time, says consultant

By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent

A PAINFUL shake-up is inevitable among clothing retailers because of a combination of sluggish demand, a huge increase in selling space and an unwillingness to innovate among some of the bigger players.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, identifies the likely winners and losers in its latest report on the clothing market. It says the strugglers will include Marks & Spencer, which has been through a period of extremely poor trading and is restructuring its business, and Bhs, which will suffer because M&S has begun lowering its prices.

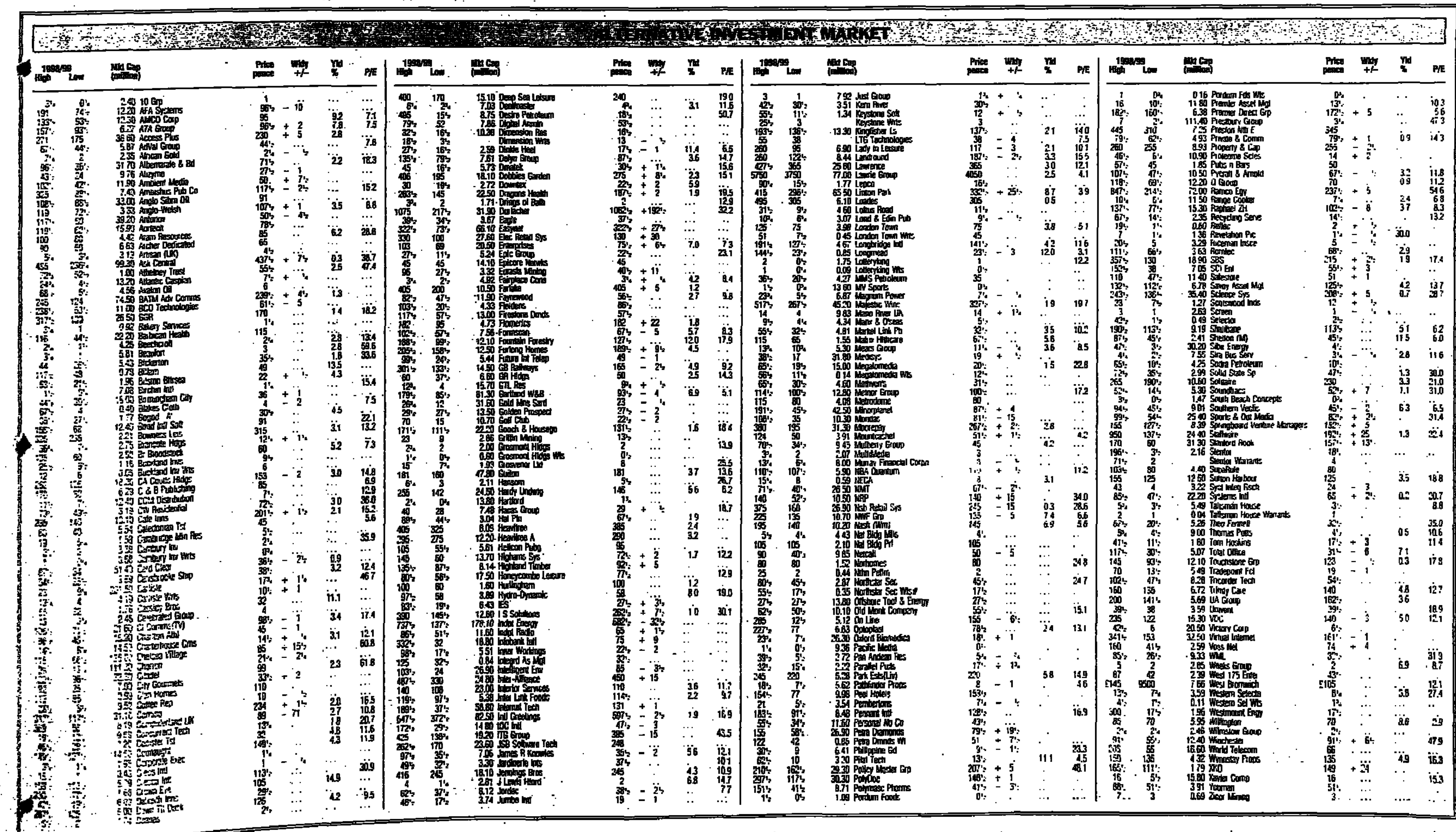
House of Fraser, C&A, Richards and Monsoon, none of which has enjoyed good trading in recent months, are also expected to continue to struggle. Potential losers include Mackays, which is up for sale, Laura Ashley and Etam.

The winners, which have good ranges and a confident approach, are identified as Oasis, Warehouse, Next, New Look, George at Asda, Gap, Debenhams and Matalan. Top Shop, Principles, Evans and Burton, all part of the Arcadia group, are also considered to be strong brands.

But with such a large number of underperforming companies, Verdict believes that "the next 18 months will see intense pressure on many middle-market players, and weak share prices will create further buying opportunities."

The clothing market grew only 1 per cent to £27 billion last year and with floor space increasing by 2.5 per cent, underlying sales were down 1.5 per cent. A total of 28 million square feet of floor space is coming on stream in the next four years.

At the same time, the numbers of high-spending 20 to 24-year-olds is set to decline.



ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	...	...
191	74½	12.20	AFA Systems	96½	−10	...	...
133½	53½	12.30	AMCO Corp	95		9.2	7.1
157½	93½	6.27	ATA Group	96½	+2	7.8	7.5
271	175	36.60	Access Plus	230	+5	2.8	...
67½	44½	5.87	AdVal Group	44½	...	...	7.6
7¼	2	2.35	African Gold	2¼	−½	...	...
96½	36½	31.70	Albemarle & Bd	71½	..	2.2	18.3
43½	24	9.76	Alizyme	27½	−1		...
102½	42½	11.90	Ambient Media	50	+7½	...	...
325	[illegible]	7.43	Amasthus Pub Co	117½	−2½	...	15.2
108½	65½	32.00	Anglo Sibrn Oil	91	...	...	...
119	72½	3.53	Anglo-Welsh	107½	+1	3.5	8.6
117½	53	39.20	Antonov	50½	−4½	..	...
119½	62½	15.93	Aortech	78½	...	...	...
100	60	4.42	Aram Resources	85	..	6.2	28.6
90	50	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65		...	..
5¼	3¼	2.13	Artisan (UK)	4½	...	...	...
455	236½	99.30	Ask Central	437½	+7½	0.3	38.7
72½	52½	1.00	Athelney Trust	55½	...	2.5	47.4
24¼	4½	13.20	Atlantic Caspian	7½	+¼	...	...
68	5½	4.56	Avalon Oil	6		...	..
245	124	74.50	BATM Adv Comms	239½	+4½	1.3	..
236½	53½	11.00	BCO Technologies	61½	−5	...	...
317½	132	26.50	BGR	170	...	1.4	18.2
3¼	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼	...	...	...
116	44½	22.20	Barbican Health	115	..	...	...
2¼	[illegible]	4.25	Beechcroft	2¼	.	2.8	13.4
3¼	[illegible]	5.81	Beaufort	3	..	2.8	59.6
44	[illegible]	5.43	Bickerton	35½	..	1.8	33.6
[illegible]	49	0.73	Bilzen	49		13.5	...
53½	21½	1.96	Bisson Bitrsea	22	+½	4.3	...
1½	½	7.08	Birchan Intl	1¼	...	...	15.4

Budgets aren't what they used to be



ROGER BOOTLE

Here we go again — the great Budget drama. Will he or won't he give such and such away? Will he raise this or cut that? I suspect that you, the reader, are no longer that much bothered. Budgets are not quite what they used to be. The interesting question is why not.

One answer is that it is all down to the personality of "Gordon the Prudent" or "The Iron Chancellor". He has taken all the fun out of it. I have no wish to deny Gordon Brown any personal credit but in my view the trend was already established under the far from boring Kenneth Clarke.

It was Gordon Brown, though, who handed power over interest rates to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and at the same time tied himself up in fiscal rules which closely limited his room for manoeuvre. In the bad old days, base rates moved according to the political calendar. They usually fell during the Conservative Party conference in October and again during Budget week in March, sometimes having risen in between. In 1979, during the ascendancy of sado-monetarism, the Chancellor, then Sir Geoffrey Howe, even made a two-point *increase* in base rates the centrepiece of his Budget. (And, by the way, *he* was known as "Mogadon Man".)

Of course, the Budget is still related to interest rate policy. The tighter the Budget, the more likely that the MPC will cut interest rates. Indeed, there have been suggestions (which I suspect are wrong-headed) that last week's decision to leave interest rates on hold was because the Budget, the broad shape of which was revealed to the MPC, is going to be distinctly stimulatory. The Chancellor will have substantial fiscal scope. He will be able to announce a large surplus — a much better result than he forecast last year. It is likely that this is in good measure due to the effects of self-assessment for income tax. Rather surprisingly, this appears to have led to greater tax compliance. In economic terms, the implication is that the fiscal stance has turned out to be tighter than intended — thus, arguably, justifying a big tax cut.

Even so, I think that a distinctly stimulatory Budget is unlikely. The Chancellor will be well aware that in the past, apparently good fiscal situations have had a way of turning sour. He should also have a main strategic consideration in mind. If he is serious about preparing Britain for euro membership then he should allow this partly inadvertent tightening of fiscal policy to make way for lower interest rates and a lower pound.

But why should we expect the Budget to be interesting and exciting? In which other country is the annual Budget regarded as a mixture of a dreaded meeting with a sort of super-bank manager and another episode of a much-watched soap opera? Our traditional obsession with how many pence the Chancellor is going to add to the price of beer and cigarettes descends from the postwar austerity years when you were encouraged to think that any little pleasure was naughty. Interest in the macro questions is connected with the extraordinary rollercoaster of the British economy. At least until recently, the story has been of over-exuberant economic recoveries quickly having to be reversed. Budgets traced out the vagaries of our position — giving money away one year and taking it back a few years hence.

There has also been a political cycle at work. For most of the postwar period there has been a sharp difference of opinion between the parties about both the micro tax and expenditure issues and the macro questions of economic management. So the ebb and flow of the electoral cycle brought the opportunity and perceived need for substantial changes — which would be announced in the Budget.

Moreover, the prevailing intellectual orthodoxy supported fiscal activism at both the macro and micro level. If some problem of economic structure or behaviour cropped up, this suggested a case for government intervention — either discouraging through tax impositions or encouraging through subsidies or tax breaks. The Byzantine structure of public expenditure and the complexity of our tax system are partly a legacy of this approach.

But now things are radically different. The economy is not poised on a knife-edge — even if we do experience a significant economic downturn bordering upon recession (which I still believe). Meanwhile, the difference between the parties on fiscal philosophy has narrowed enormously. Furthermore, there has been a reaction against policy activism at both the macro and micro level.

Still, no Chancellor can resist the temptation to tinker a bit and there will doubtless be examples tomorrow. I expect that there will be various measures designed to boost spending on R&D, and something to help small firms. At the level of individual tax, politics, alas, is not quite dead. I suspect that the Chancellor will be unable to resist the lure of a 10p starting rate of tax, paid for by reduction or abolition of the 20p tax band, and further restriction, or even abolition, of tax allowances such as mortgage interest tax relief.

If this does prove to be about the size of it, I hope no one criticises the Chancellor for producing a boring Budget. It is a sign of both our economic success and our political maturity if the annual act of announcing numbers for government revenues and expenditure ranks some way down the list of favourite entertainments. In seeking to encourage a culture of stability and medium-term planning the Chancellor deserves a good deal of the credit.

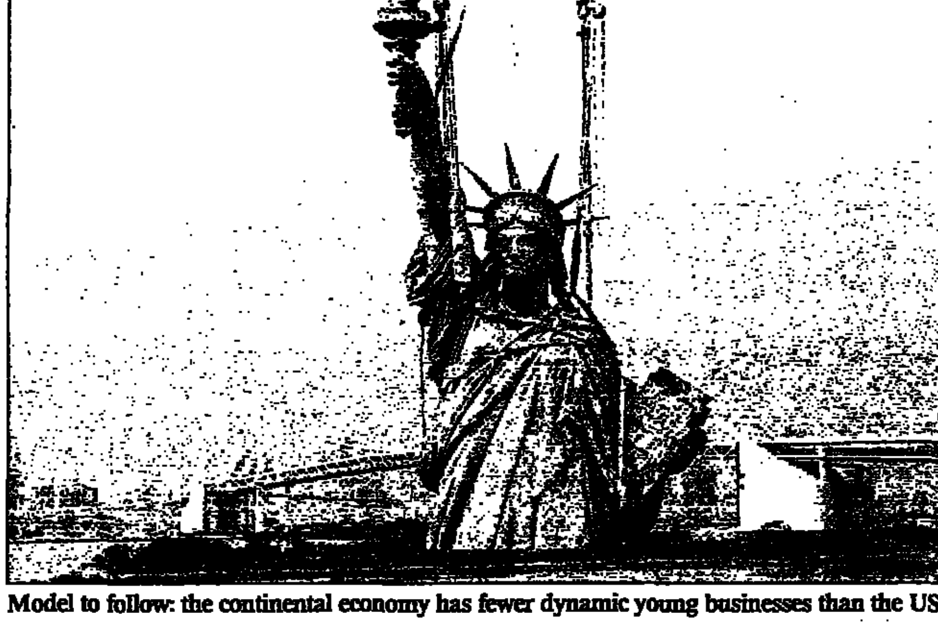
Britain should emulate success the American way

Convergence with euroland and surrender of sterling is recipe for disaster, says John Redwood

It's official: there is an American way of enterprise and it is better than the European way. That much has now been stated by our own Prime Minister. In his recent statements he has told us that Europe needs to follow the US's path of lower taxes, less regulation, a more positive environment for business. The trouble is that the Budget and the euro scheme we see before us point in exactly the opposite direction.

The Labour Government's strategy is not pulling us closer to the US, it is taking us perilously close to incorporation in the European model. We see day by day the Government following an economic policy designed to get us to converge with the Continent rather than with the US. Taxes have gone up, interest rates went up and stayed up for many months, the exchange rate was put up: it was all a deliberate attempt to slow the UK economy down and make it as sluggish in its performance as the French and German.

Now we can see the Labour Government importing a large number of rules and regulations from the Continent that all serve to make it dearer to do business in Britain. We have adopted a minimum wage with few exemptions, working hours restrictions and invited in whatever comes next from the social chapter. The US has many exemptions in its low minimum wage and fewer rules on other things.



Model to follow: the continental economy has fewer dynamic young businesses than the US

The costs of Britain's policy are already becoming prodigious. Over the past four years the US has grown by 4.5 per cent more than Germany. The UK was closer to the US performance than to the German, but was slowing almost to a standstill. In a couple of years the UK is likely to lose 5 per cent of national income compared with the position if it was keeping pace with the American way. That means that every adult in the country will be worse off by £1,000 of income each than if we had followed the US model.

Some years ago all the political parties and the business leaders of Britain thought the exchange-rate mechanism would bring us prosperity. They talked of a golden scenario. Disaster struck, companies floundered, many jobs were lost and business was mightily relieved when the experiment ended. Now some of those same people want us to try again, this time converging with euroland and then surrendering our separate currency. They admire Gordon Brown's budgetmanship designed to bring this about.

We can already see the cost. Day after day factories close and jobs are lost in manufacturing industry. The textile, steel and engineering heartlands are in sharp retreat. The gap between what we make and earn and what the US makes and earns gets ever wider.

The Government parrots the slogan that it is abolishing boom and bust. Industrialists would say that all it has done is brought on an earlier and deeper bust than it need have.

Is industry never to recover? It is in recession now: what else can the Government's silly slogan mean?

The continental economy finds it difficult to create jobs. It has a much smaller population of enterprising and dynamic young businesses than the US. Success is often penalised by the taxman or throttled by the regulator. There are much higher taxes on income, on savings, on capital gains and on investment.

Gordon Brown's Budgets have hit business hard, taking £25 billion out of their cashflow over the lifetime of this Parliament through higher taxes. That's money which otherwise would have been available to spend on jobs and new investment. The Government has imposed another £15 billion of extra costs from all its regulations. That's money that cannot be spent on creating jobs.

The Government has decided that sacrificing industry is a price worth paying to get us to converge with Europe. The DTI has said in its Competitiveness White Paper that Britain should switch from industry to high-tech and services.

The policy is certainly forcing de-industrialisation on the UK. In tomorrow's Budget I expect more of the same. Stealth taxes on business, a strategy designed to make us go at Europe's pace, not the US's, laced with the harsh rhetoric of a trade war with the world's number one economic superpower. It is not an attractive cocktail. It is bad for business. It means we are going to get a lot more than £1,000 a year poorer as a result of doing it the European way, while saying it the American way.

The Opposition says to the Chancellor, throw away that Budget script, forget about the need to converge, really do it the US way. Then we could have lower unemployment, more businesses and more success.

John Redwood is Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

UPANISHADS
(c) The concluding portion of the Vedas, the early religious writings of the Hindus. A hundred and eight in number, they are the foundation of most Indian thought. They are intuitive rather than logical in form, but exhibit a vivid sense of spiritual reality.

ANALEMNA
(b) A scale marked on a globe in order to show the daily declination of the Sun. This enables the reader to determine those parallels where the Sun is directly overhead at any specific time of year.

VENTIFACT
(a) A stone that has been shaped by the wind, especially in arid and polar areas. Abrasion may be achieved by sand, dust or snow. The stones become shaped, and have various surface textures, polished, pitted or fluted. They are of use in indicating past wind direction.

POPINJAY
(c) A mark in the form of a bird set on a mast as a target for archers to knock down with blunt arrows. The sport was never popular in Britain. But it figured as an event in the 1900 Paris Olympics, and at Antwerp in 1920. Twenty arrows were shot at a 31-metre mast. Safety required arrows of at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter, forsooth.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

Solution: 1 Qxh8+! Bxh8 2 Rc5+ and White wins easily on material.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US Dollar
1.6098 (+0.0085)
Euro
0.6744 (−0.0110)
Exchange index
102.4 (+1.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
3767.8 (+7.5)
FTSE 100
6205.5 (+30.4)
New York Dow Jones
9736.08 (+429.50)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
14894.00 (+526.46)

TELEVISION CHOICE

Slow boat to disaster

Disaster: The Marchioness
BBC2, 8pm

A new series of the drama documentaries which reconstruct major events begins with the tragedy, ten years ago, when the 15-tonne dredger *Bowbelle* sheared into the superstructure of the Thames riverboat, *The Marchioness*, in the small hours of an August morning. Fifty-one passengers died even though more than 100 people managed to escape the sinking vessel. The average age of these partygoers was 25. With special effects worthy of *Titanic* we watch now, with the hindsight of two investigations, what appears to have happened. A drunk captain, disco music which had drowned out radio signals, no proper warning lights on the larger vessel, restricted views from the bridges of both craft... the list goes on and on.

Kavanagh QC
ITV, 9pm

Opening with a spectacular air crash, the returning series follows on sharpish with the pilot of the jet commiting suicide. Scene-setters don't come more vivid than this. And it is a tribute to the script that the court examination of why the aircraft crashed is almost as tense as the opener. It's certainly more intricate: here are plots within plots — sad little stories which date back to the Baader-Meinhof days. Exemplary performances all round with Amanda Ryan outstanding as a misguided latterday terrorist and Nicholas Jones supplying the gentle humour. John Thaw, of course, dominates.

Cutting Edge: Asylum
Channel 4, 9pm

The subtitle cuts both ways — once Friern Barnet in North London was a notorious — indeed, looking at old film downright creepy — hospital, the largest mental institution in Europe with grounds five times the size of Buckingham Palace and a working farm (hence the term "funny farm"). It was an asylum for some 2,500 patients. Today it has changed beyond recognition — though the vaulted corridors, sweeping grounds and Florentine belltower remain intact. It has been renamed Princess Park Manor and new residents are currently checking out its gorgeous apartments and peaceful gardens.

John Thaw returns as the down-to-earth barrister *Kavanagh QC* (ITV, 9pm)

The Grimleys
ITV, 10.30pm

Now here is an endearingly silly little series to be getting on with — although why this schoolboyish sitcom isn't by day instead of by night is worth a ponder. Brian Conley plays an over-the-top bully boy games master named Digby at a council school in Dudley. He fancies the gorgeous English teacher (Amanda Holden) who is in turn fancied, achingly, by one of her more nerdish pupils, Gordon Grimley (James Bradshaw). Gordon, for reasons which escape me, is cast as Romeo in the school play and Doug "Dynamo" Digby is not best pleased. Like that other somewhat wobbly newcomer, *Days Like These*, the action takes place in the 1970s but it's none-the-worse for that. Nigel Planer and Slade's Noddy Holder are among the cast, though so far Planer has had nothing to do but drowse in front of the television. He's on strike you see. **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

The Pleasures of the Table
Radio 4, 9.45am

The era of the television cook has tended to make the culture of cooking a visual art rather than the written one that it once was. So this series of readings from the writings of Elizabeth David, Patience Gray, Jane Grigson, Dorothy Hartley and M.F.K. Fisher is greatly to be welcomed. Today's reading is from David and begins with her return to England after the Second World War, somewhat constricted (at first) by rationing. But it seems not to have inhibited her cooking for long, thanks to friends and family arriving from all quarters with exotic food. These included "a sister who turned up from Vienna with a hare, which she claimed had beeen caught by hand outside the opera house."

Afternoon Play: The Girl From Arles
Radio 4, 2.15pm

There is an unusual aspect to *L'Arlesienne*, Alphonse Daudet's play of which this is a translation, in that many more people will recognise the accompanying music, which was written by Bizet, than are likely to have heard the play itself. Michael Robson's adaptation features extracts from the stirring and melodic musical score. The play itself is an intriguing and salutary tale set in 1862. It is essentially a story of the unrequited love of a young man, brought up by his mother and grandfather after the death of his father, for a girl from the town of Arles. It seems a perfect match, but what will be the consequences of the intervention of another young man, claiming that the girl is "no better than a slut"? **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Jo Whiley **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live. Featuring Orbital, and a feature on the Manic Street Preachers' album *Everything Must Go* **12.00am** *The Breezeblock* **2.00** *Clive Warren* **4.00** *Scott Mills*

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Jools Holland (6/13) **9.30** Mark Lamarr: *Shake, Rattle and Roll* (7/10) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell. *Live from Berwick-upon-Tweed, in the run up to devolution for Scotland and Wales* **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Greenock Morton v Celtic in the Tennents Scottish Cup *quarter-final* **9.40** Dream Teams. Simple Minds frontman and Celtic supporter *Jim Kerr* talks about his favourite players **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00pm** Let's Talk Soap **1.00** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** Under the Posts **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** This Woman Thing **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Record News **8.20** Off the Shelf: Letters From My Windmill **8.35** Health Matters **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway Access **9.20** The *Vintage Chart Show* **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** *Newsdesk* **10.30** H.M. the Queen's Message To the Commonwealth **10.35** Britain Today **10.45** The Farming World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Pick of the World **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Health Matters **2.30** Meridian **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Commonwealth Day Observance **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** *World Business Report* **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** *World News* **6.15** H.M. the Queen's Message To the Commonwealth **6.20** Britain Today **6.30** Warm World **7.00** World News **7.05** Health Matters **7.30** Clouded Hills **7.45** Off the Shelf: Letters From My Windmill **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: *Hit-List* **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Westway **1.45** Record News **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Warm World **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests **2.00** Concerto. J.S. Bach (Concerto for 2 violins in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon *Romance* **6.30** *Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories* **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Elgar (Enigma Variations); Sibelius (Violin Concerto in D minor; Symphony No 5 in E flat major); Grainger (Country Gardens) **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto. J.S. Bach (Concerto for 2 violins in D minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

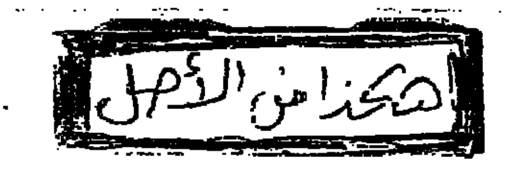
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny reviews the first concert of *Towards the Millennium — The 1980s*, conducted this weekend by Simon Rattle
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Stravinsky (Fireworks); Schickhardt, after Corelli (Sonata in F); Haydn (Symphony No 94 in G, Surprise); Brahms (Missa canonica, Sanctus); Stravinsky (The Firebird, 1910 version)
10.30 Artist of the Week Joan Bakewell talks to the Korean violinist Kyung-Wha Chung
11.00 Sound Stories: Indian Summers Donald Macleod explores the work of Heinrich Schutz
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Frederick Delius
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Cecile Ousset, piano
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska
4.00 Opera in Action Robert Lloyd reflects on the ways in which opera in America differs from elsewhere
4.45 *Music Machine* This week, Verity Sharp looks at some of the huge number of different types of mechanical instruments(r)
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty
7.30 Performance on 3 Humphrey Carpenter introduces a concert given last Saturday in the Royal Festival Hall as part of the *Towards the Millennium* festival. John Williams, guitar, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Orchestra under Simon Rattle. Lutoslawski (Symphony No 3); Takemitsu (To the Edge of Dreams; Vers l'arc-en-ciel, Palma); John Adams (Harmonium)
9.20 Postscript: Radio Poems — Lullaby of Broadway by George Szirtes. For the third year running, Radio 3 has commissioned five of poets to write a new poem for radio
9.40 Bach (Fantasia and Fugue in A minor, BWV904); Bob van Asperen, harpsichord
10.00 Voices In the first of two programmes, Iain Burnside trawls through 75 years of recordings of Schubert songs
10.45 Mixing It Mark Russell and Robert Sandall introduce a session by Jocelyn Pook and her eight-piece ensemble
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton talks to the drummer Allan Ganley
12.00am Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky (r)
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** Schubert (Schwanengesang; Auf dem Strom) **2.10** Goldmark (Night Piece, Die Konigin von Saba) **2.15** Copland (Quiet City); Vancouver RSO under Mario Bernardi **2.30** Brade (New Pavans and Galliards) **3.00** Schools: Music Box **3.15** Something to Think About **3.30** EAL: Let's Make a Story **3.45** Stories and Rhymes **4.00** Find Out **4.15** Maths Challenge **4.30** Hopscotch **4.45** Scottish Resources 7-9 **5.00** Scriabin (Poeme satanique **5.05** Corelli (Trio Sontata in C minor, Op 1 No 8) **5.10** Zipoli (All'elevazione) **5.15** Mozart (Four Notturnos) **5.20** Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 1)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News **5.35 Shipping Forecast**
5.40 Inshore Forecast **5.45 Prayer for the Day**
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today With Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week Discussion programme, hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Pleasures of the Table Maureen O'Brien reads from Elizabeth David in the first of five celebrations of food and wine. See Choice (1/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service From Liverpool Cathedral. Director of music Ian Tracey
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests
11.00 Tuning into Children Kirsty Wark looks at how children become articulate and literate (4/6)
11.30 King of Bath Comedy by Arnold Evans. Nash reveals his Welsh roots. With David Bamber, Elry *Thomas, Andrew Wincott and Peter Gunn (3/6)*
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and stories, with Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Counterpoint Second semi-final of the general knowledge music quiz, hosted by Ned Sherrin
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Girl from Arles Michael Robson's adaptation of Alphonse Daudet's melodrama *L'Arlesienne*. With John Woodvine, Mary Wimbush and Frances Jeater. See Choice
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on financial issues
3.30 Shorelines Insight into a range of British coastal communities, beginning with Studland Bay (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 46 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Food Programme Joanna Blythman investigates health concerns surrounding the use of antibiotics in intensive chicken farming (r)
4.30 Turning World Jenni Murray and guests look at *human interest stories from around the world*
5.00 PM with Kevin Bocquet and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute Jenny Eclair, Stephen Frost, Peter Jones and Tim Rice try to speak for 60 seconds without hesitation, *repetition or deviation* at the Corn Exchange, Brighton. With Nicholas Parsons
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Arts review, with Mark Lawson
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama by Tim Jackson, starring Rachel Atkins and Ian Pepperell. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (16/30) (r)
8.00 Silent Sentence Peter White investigates the repercussions of crimes committed by one family member against another. Last in series (3/3)
8.30 Analysis Frances Cairncross examines how rates of pay are determined and the true value of workers to employers and society at large
9.00 Nature Mark Carwardine investigates Florida's manatees, focusing on fossil evidence emerging in Jamaica of their links with the whale family
9.30 Start the Week Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary — The Sun Also Rises John Sharian reads part six of Hemingway's acclaimed novel
11.00 Fear on 4: Chimes at Midnight — Prepare to be Scared? By Nick Fisher. A physicist lands himself in deep trouble. David Suchet and John Rowe star (r)
11.30 (FM) Airs of England Tony Engle extols the virtues of Victorian English folk music (4/4) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political news
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Golf Dreams John Updike recalls a lifetime's obsession (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe**





A primitive challenge for the TV masses

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

The riotously popular 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?' (ITV, Friday) is back for a new series. "Who Wants To Watch People Failing To Get Anywhere Near Being A Millionaire?" would seem a more appropriate title. This is, in every respect, a deeply primitive programme.

All you need to know, if you haven't seen it, is that the all-purpose celebrity presenter Chris Tarrant asks the contestants a series of multiple-choice general knowledge questions and if they get them right they win increasing sums of money. There are one or two fussy complications: The money goes up in levels, and if they get an answer wrong their winnings drop back to the last level. They get three "lifelines": They can ring a friend for help once, have the possible answers reduced from four to two once, and ask the audience to tell them the answer once.

But these are merely diverting fripperies from the main point which is watching a thicko get lots of money for answering easy questions. I don't know why this should be entertaining, but it is.

Some readers may find the word "thicko" unkind, arrogant, elitist even. Not, I suspect, those who have seen the show, though. This is Lowest Common Denominator television and the questions are carefully pitched so that they will not alienate the target audience. Viewer identification is crucial, and some of them probably have difficulty remembering the way to their front door. For them naming the capital of Finland is as challenging as quantum physics. Fearful, no doubt, that more alert viewers might get scornful, Tarrant keeps reminding us that "it's only easy if you know the answer". Some of the questions are only easy if you haven't spent your life in a catatonic trance. It is depressing that in a country so obsessed with trivia quizzes, the level of general knowledge is so low.

Tarrant's main job, of course, is to maintain the tension. The contestants are understandably nervous; their answers stiff and fumbling, betraying little hint of personality. Tarrant keeps things bubbling along with his jocular teasing, but he is also very adept at manipulating the situation.

In the earliest questions he laughs at the more absurd possible answers, thus indicating to the numb-nut on the Clapham omnibus that they might be wrong.

But he also uses subtler variations of tone and body language to help them through.

It would spoil the fun if Dave from Bedfordshire fell at the first hurdle because he didn't know that emulsion, primer and undercoat are all types of paint. Tarrant's next trick is to look concerned and ask the contestants if they are happy with their answer. Normally this is code for "Wrong. Try again." But on another occasion he used it on Paul, a goatee-bearded former DJ from Reading, when he had correctly named *HMS Victory* as Nelson's flagship. Paul looked worried and wasted a "lifeline" checking with the audience. I suspect Tarrant pulled this mean trick out of sheer boredom.

The show rambles on for the rest of the week. Maybe someone will pass through the genuinely difficult questions and win that million, but, hey, who cares?

The ITV companies may be responsible for the direst output of factual programming in living memory, but when it comes to comfy middlebrow drama they are still delivering the goods. Making bland television tasty is a harder trick than it looks. You need that secret blend of herbs and spices, or the junk food tastes stale and clammy. Actually the main ingredient in the success of A Touch Of Frost (ITV, Sunday) is short, balding and crabbily avuncular.

David Jason is constantly winning television popularity contests for the simple reason that he can make almost any character likeable. I always like to see him at awards ceremonies. With his hair washed and fluffed up he resembles a big silvery fur-ball. As detective "Jack" Frost he is, quite frankly, a bit of a scruff, a sort of provincial English Columbo, in a "Man at C & A"-style anorak. But that just adds to the charm.

A further secret ingredient must be the show's gentle pace. The plots can be complex, not to say convoluted. Last night's tangled web involved a gay hospital porter with more aliases than someone with several aliases, a mysterious corpse, a burglary and the theft of a genuine Hockney. But there is none of the frantic urgency deemed essential in other cop shows, and events unfold at the sedate speed of a Sunday afternoon stroll, enlivened by a stream of nicely underplayed jokes. In an inversion of the "suspended cop" plot, Frost is forced to withdraw his resignation after the traumatic events which ended the last series, in order to clear up the mess left by his appalling record-keeping.

Much credit must go to Malcolm Bradbury's adaptation, which caught the eccentricities of the characters beautifully, while steering deftly through the twists and turns of the plot. For a former Professor of Literature whose creative writing course produced some of our finest contemporary novelists, Bradbury is certainly not afraid to use clichés, though. I bet he didn't teach Rose Tremain and Kazuo Ishiguro to use phrases like "answers on a postcard please" and "chop, chop".

The BBC, on the other hand, prefers gritty realism. It is remarkable that in the past year it produced two new police series of such quality as Cops and *City Central* (BBC1, Saturday), which returned last week. Like Frost, *City Central* is restrained and slow, but it is punctuated by moments of shocking violence, a man thrown from a window for instance, which invest the calm with chilling menace.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (67408)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (52243)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2753243)
9.45 Wipeout (8404668)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7642682)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3202069)
11.00 Change That (3212446)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3282205)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7160243)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (74576)
12.30 Top Tip Challenge (r) (4736601)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53870601)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (55330)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59709576)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (35849934)
2.05 Ironside (r) (5060779)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (8584494)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6606576) **3.45** Pocket Dragon (5251427) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (9981359) **4.10** Anthony Ant (6126953) **4.20** The Littlest Pet Shop (6979175) **4.35** Misery Guts (3280779) **5.00** Newsround (4945205) **5.10** Blue Peter (9632392)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (806576)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (595)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (175)
7.00 A Question of Sport A football-managers special with guests Peter Reid, Bryan Robson, Steve Bruce and David O'Leary (T) (2412)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck A report from California on a new drug that is helping hundreds to give up smoking (T) (359)
8.00 EastEnders Louise promises never to leave again (T) (6392)
8.30 Mrs Merton and Malcolm Sitcom with Caroline Aherne (3/6) (T) (5427)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (3663)
9.30 Animal Police Tony struggles to keep a horse on its feet until a vet arrives (12224)
10.00 Panorama Concerns about the increasingly young age at which teenagers have their first sexual experiences (T) (654595)
10.45 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia Billy explores Sydney and Newcastle (r) (T) (882576)
11.25 Harbour Lights (r) (T) (329717)



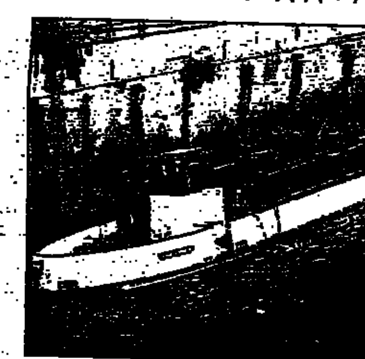
Romantic comedy with Nastassja Kinski and Dudley Moore (12.15am)

12.15am Unfaithfully Yours (1983) FILM A conductor plans revenge on his wife, who he suspects is having an affair. With Dudley Moore and Nastassja Kinski. Directed by Howard Zeiff (T) (583793)
1.45 Weather (1574977)
1.50 BBC News 24 (22657921)

10.00 Labour of Love (4/6) (T) (75205) **10.30 Panorama** (540088) **11.15 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia** (r) (T) (691446) **11.55 Harbour Lights** (r) (T) (652682) **12.45am FILM: Unfaithfully Yours** (T) (671199) **2.20 News** (T) (9879644) **2.25 News 24** (58854712)

BBC2

7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7671224) **7.05** Teletubbies (7184804) **7.30** Snorks (8533137) **7.50** Blue Peter (3641408) **8.20** Taz-Mania (5239798) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (1287446) **8.50** Romuald the Reindeer (1276330) **9.00** Space Ark (7805446) **9.10** Short Circuit (4520021) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (8926427) **9.45** Storytime (8914682) **10.00** Teletubbies (27069) **10.30** Words and Pictures (9466156) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (9454311) **11.00** Look and Read (3482156) **11.20** Zig Zag (3339156) **11.40** Landmarks (6710137) **12.00pm** Job Bank (4243205) **12.10** History File (5415934) **12.30** Working Lunch (23330) **1.00** Romuald the Reindeer (68106576)
1.10 War Walks Waterloo (r) (T) (41937972)
1.40 Hart-Davis on History Adam Hart-Davis visits Harrogate (35860427)
2.10 Awash with Colour (56620576)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3474866)
2.45 Match of Their Day A chat with Jack Charlton (T) (4844040)
3.25 News (T); Turning Points (4918972)
3.35 The Village (r) (4611798)
3.55 Kaye Advice show (9659243)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6345088)
4.55 Esther Women in uniform (T) (5320069)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (224)
6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe Zoe Ball and guests review three pop videos (r) (T) (137224)
6.15 The Simpsons Homer is sent back to college (T) (770953)
6.40 The Ren and Stimpy Show (r) (643595)
7.00 Internal Affairs New series: Insight into the work of British Phonographic Industry agents policing the trade against illegal counterfeiting operators (T) (8514)
7.30 Rough Guide to the World Edith Bowman and Dimitri Doganis explore the scenery of New Zealand (3/6) (T) (601)



The wreck of *The Marchioness* revealed at low tide (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Disaster** New series. Reconstructions of the sinking of the pleasure boat *Marchioness* (T) (4934)
8.30 Food and Drink Antony Worrall Thompson celebrates British beef (T) (3069)
9.00 Births, Marriages and Deaths Terry finds consolation with Alex (T) (577446)
9.55 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen Celebrities demonstrate recipes (T) (801798)
10.00 If I Ruled the World (89525)
10.30 Newsnight With Kirsty Wark (T) (531330)
11.15 Tribe Young women who have decided to convert to Islam (T) (172750)
11.45 Bitesize Britain (T) (449088)
11.55 Weather (879330)
12.00am Despatch Box (51915)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Persisting Dreams **1.30** Off with the Mask: TV in the 1960s **2.00** Schools: Science **4.00** Languages: Talk Spanish, 1-4 **5.00** Business and Training: Skills for Work **5.45** Open University: Marten Van Heemskerck **6.10** Humanity and the Scaffold **6.35** A University Without Walls

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (31458)
6.00 GMTV (5917601)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8149330)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44761224)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (4259866)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4738069)
12.55 Shortland Street Rachel loses out to an old rival (9165779)
1.30 Home and Away Geraldine lets her mask drop (T) (35878446)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (8331250)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2164458)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4993663)
3.15 HTV News (4992934)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4913427) **3.30** Kipper (9968040) **3.40** Captain Pugwash (9953576) **3.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches (5242779) **4.05** It's a Mystery (6338798) **4.30** Polterguests (798)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (2576)
5.30 WEST: Garden Calendar Horticultural tips courtesy of gardening experts Alan and Felicity Down (750)
5.30 WALES: House to House New series. Home makeovers in Aberfan (750)
5.58 HTV Weather (491934)
6.00 HTV News (T) (663)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (243)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Anthea Turner explores Namibia and Judith Chalmers returns to St Tropez (T) (5040)
7.30 Coronation Street Ian begs Sharon for another chance (T) (427)
8.00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? Ultimate big-prize game show (T) (1088)
8.30 Cop Shop New fly-on-the-wall documentary series charting the day-to-day dramas at Gosport police station in Hampshire (1/8) (T) (7345)
9.00 CHOICE **Kavanagh QC** New series. John Thaw returns as the resourceful barrister (1/4) (T) (9088)



A new sitcom set in a 1970s council school (10.30pm

10.30 CHOICE **The Grimleys** New sitcom set in the 1970s (1/8) (T) (79021)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (304156)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (725507)
11.30 Fitz Part one. A series of apparently racial murders cause headaches for the police as the body-count mounts and tensions in the office reach boiling-point. Robert Pastorelli stars (T) (43953)
12.30am Football Extra Football League highlights (63460)
1.30 World Football (r) (24660)
2.00 Dr Phibes Rises Again (1972) FILM Disfigured genius Dr Phibes returns from the grave to search for an elixir of life. Tongue-in-cheek horror sequel, starring Vincent Price and Robert Quarry. Directed by Robert Fuest (712847)
3.35 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (2929199)
4.35 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (46784064)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (20606)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except.
12.20-12.30pm Central News (7497934)
12.55 Home and Away (4746088)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4301682)
2.10-2.40 High Road (56640330)
3.15-3.20 Central News (4992934)
5.30 Shortland Street (750)
5.59 Travel Update (491934)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six (663)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (725507)
4.30am Central Jobfinder '99 (4745731)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3544118)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather (4259866)
12.27-12.30 Small Talk, Big Talk (7405953)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (4746088)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4301682)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56640330)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (4992934)
4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7008885)
5.30 Animal SOS (750)
6.00 Westcountry Live; Weather (663)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (725507)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4259866) **5.30 Country Ways** (T) (750) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (663) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (154311) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (732040) **11.35-12.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (968430) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (20606)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except. **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7416069) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7497934) **5.30-5.35 Take It On** (412427) **5.35-6.00 Anglia News Monday Extra;** Weather (T) (824972) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (663) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (439576) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (725507)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (20390446) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67082205) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (99379798) **9.25 Schools at Work** (29903330) **9.30 Geography Junction** (74263601) **9.45 Book Box** (74268156) **10.00 Ble Ar Y Ddaear?** (91016040) **10.15 Scotscapes** (91006663) **10.30 Place and People** (51734224) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (76618363) **11.00 Deuparth Gwaith** (15179972) **11.15 The Mix** (15169595) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (r) (T) (68434885) **12.00pm Right to Reply** (T) (97213953) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (26048798) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67085392) **1.30 Classic British Cars** (2/8) (T) (26047069) **2.00 Time Team** (T) (73169885) **3.00 Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan** (9/10) (T) (90306576) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67318576) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67320311) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (67326595) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90301021) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67340175) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93666408) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86149311) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90321885) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67327224) **8.00 Dudley** (T) (90307205) **8.30 Pwy Di Pwy?** (T) (90319040) **9.00 Taro Naw** (T) (68413392) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (57467999) **10.35 Cutting Edge** (T) (52035601) **11.35 Access All Areas** (84402311) **11.36 The Half Monty** (92467663) **12.05am Penny's Baby** (71577809) **12.35 The Down's Syndrome** (85598809) **1.05 What's So Special About David?** (87649373) **1.35 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (4481798)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (45953)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (7776971) **9.25** Schools at Work (8067040) **9.30** Geography Junction (8911595) **9.45** Book Box (8909750) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9123088) **10.15** Scotscapes (9106311) **10.30** Place and People (1760934) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (8030205) **11.00** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (3320408) **11.15** The Mix (3343359)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (7866)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (90514)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (25798)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (48040)
1.30 Son for Sail Short film about a spoilt brat who gets his comeuppance (35876088)
1.55 Rotten to the Core (1965) FILM A gang of ex-convicts led by Anton Rodgers plan to steal an army payroll. British comedy with James Beckett and Eric Sykes. Directed by John Boulting (T) (75468514)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (791)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (156)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3207446)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (5315137)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (392)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (205)
6.30 Hollyoaks Jas faces the music (T) (885)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (300514)
7.50 The Outlaw Michael Heath's animation about the last smoker in Britain (1/5) (T) (946514)



Robert Zwigger (left) tries to overcome his phobia of reptiles (8pm)

8.00 To the Ends of the Earth The rap artist and hearse-driver Robert Twigger sets out to claim $50,000 offered by the Bronx Zoo for anyone who can provide them with a 30ft snake (3/6) (T) (4021)
9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge** Reflections on the redevelopment of Friern Barnet Hospital (T) (4885)
10.00 Wes Craven's New Nightmare (1994) FILM Premiere. Unusual twist on the Freddy Krueger theme, as *the Nightmare on Elm Street* actors Robert Englund and Heather Langenkamp discover that the fictional killer has come to life. Directed by Wes Craven (64870243)
12.05am Access All Areas The fight to allow a Belfast teenager with Down's syndrome to attend a mainstream school after two years spent at home (T) (9008267)
12.40 An Angel at My Table (1990) FILM Biopic of the New Zealand novelist and poet Janet Frame, who had schizophrenia wrongly diagnosed and spent eight years in a mental hospital. With Kerry Fox. Directed by Jane Campion (T) (66690606)
3.25 Powerhouse Political update (r) (T) (18527098)
3.35 Right to Reply Viewers' comments (r) (93046538)
3.55 Stroke Short film about a keen swimmer (r) (73558996)
4.00 Schools: All About Us (72606)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (5701066)
7.00 WideWorld Part 12. Paul Coia investigates the Italian university system (r) (T) (8198359)
7.30 Milkshake! (2613885)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r). 5 News Update (4692514)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2615137)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (2814408)
9.00 Was It Good for You? Holiday reports (r) (6787705)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4474156)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1138935)
10.20 Sunset Beach Does Ben still love Maria? (T) (3661798)
11.10 Leeza (r) (2367327)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2818224)
12.30 Family Affairs Gabby learns of Clive's short-lived affair (r) (T); 5 News Update (1296446)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Clarke ditches his designs (T) (8180330)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment show (r); 5 News Update (1295717)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9174446)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, 5 News Update (1772934)
3.30 Shootdown (TVM 1988) FILM A woman sets out to investigate a hushed-up aeroplane disaster in which her son was killed. True-life drama, starring Angela Lansbury. Directed by Michael Pressman (T) (8693971)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (3745224)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (2418427)
6.30 Family Affairs Pete threatens Claire (T) (2409779)
7.00 5 News; Weather Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (9145934)
7.30 Natural Passions A report on Donald Perry's revolutionary system for exploring the canopies of rainforests (T). 5 News Update (2498663)
8.00 Instant Gardens The team visit Burbage in Leicestershire to create a minimalist garden inspired by local artist George Pickard (5/14) (T) (9154682)
8.30 Animal ER A border collie injured by a train and a foal needing a hernia operation (4/6) (T); 5 News Update (9173717)
9.00 Mary Higgins-Clark's Remember Me (TVM 1995) FILM A couple attempting to patch up their crumbling marriage following the death of their young son decide to take a seaside trip — little realising the horrors awaiting them at their supposedly idyllic destination. Psychological thriller, starring Kelly McGillis, Cooper Smith and Stephen McHattie. Directed by Michael Switzer (T); 5 News Update (81266601)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update The latest pop hits (8410663)
10.55 V The resistance fighters bid to recover their comrades (r) (84259392)
12.45am Live and Dangerous Action from the Winter X Games (65269915)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Lou devises a scheme to get rid of Stan (7109286)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8873793)

SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see *Saturday's Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (95601) **7.30** Chris Evans Breakfast Show (59972) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (45088) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (55175) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (71392) **11.00** Guilty! (91156) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (80885) **1.00** Mad About You (95972) **1.30** Jeopardy (40021) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (60798) **3.00** Jenny Jones (75243) **4.00** Guilty! (54750) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (1243) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (4427) **6.30** Friends (5779) **7.00** The Simpsons (2972) **7.30** The Simpsons (4663) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (57412) **9.00** First Wave (92408) **10.00** Seinfeld (17205) **10.30** Seinfeld (26953) **11.00** Friends (62779) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (51205) **12.30am** The Commish (87054) **1.30** Long Play (9207921)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **The Edge (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **As Good as It Gets (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Good Will Hunting (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Mortal Kombat: Annihilation (1997)** **Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Raise the Red Lantern (1991) (4216750) **8.00 Life is Sweet (1990)** (6684371?) **10.00 Close My Eyes (1991)** (8439934) **12.00 Spanking the Monkey (1994)** (5814936) **1.40 The Ballad of Little Jo (1993)** (8131422) **3.40 Even Cowgirls Get the Blues (1994)** (98305373)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Stolen Women (1996) (64021) **8.00 Charlie's Ghost Story (1994)** (85040) **9.30 Three Wishes (1995)** (65175) **11.30 Hamlet (1996)** (4742359) **3.30pm** Barry Norman's Film Night (1959) **4.00 Charlie's Ghost Story (1994)** (4717) **6.00 Three Wishes (1995)** (97953) **8.00 The Saint (1997)** (57458) **10.00 The Devil's Own (1997)** (619853) **11.55 Night Falls on Manhattan (1997)** (399205) **1.50am Mary Reilly (1996)** (861880) **3.40 Screamers (1996)** (91747246)

SKY MOVIEMAX

7.00am Femmes Fatales (98069) **7.30** Movie Magic (1665330) **8.15** Action Heroes (2397408) **9.00 Son of Godzilla (1967)** (64514) **11.00 Howard: A New Breed of Hero (1986)** (89682) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales (80040) **1.30** Movie Magic (5743972) **2.15** Action Heroes (7886683) **3.00 Son of Godzilla (1967)** (51232) **5.00 Bury Me in Niagara (1992)** (22137) **7.00 Howard: A New Breed of Hero (1986)** (78205) **9.00 Fatal Affair (1997)** (58707) **11.00 Spawn (1997)** (846205) **12.40 Profile for Murder (1996)** (209996) **2.15 The Cure (1997)** (333354) **3.55 Call Me (1988)** (911151)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Deadline USA (1952) (7298427) **6.00 In Name Only (1939)** (2691576) **8.00 No Way to Treat a Lady (1968)** (2598021) **10.00 Gentleman's Agreement (1947)** (4543224) **12.00am Sudden Impact (1983)** (3501151) **2.00 You'll Find Out (1940)** (1138354) **3.40 3.10 to Yuma (1957)** (20950977)

TNT

9.00pm When the Lion Roars (33089798) **11.00 Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954)** (23981934) **1.00am Shaft in Africa (1973)** (45546625) **2.45 The Yellow Rolls Royce (1964)** (22983828) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am FA Cup Football Special **8.30** Snow Show **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Super League **12.00pm** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30** What a Weekend **1.00** FA Cup Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** Powerboat and Jetsport World **5.00** Max Power **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Live Scottish FA Cup Football **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Football League Review **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.15** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Scottish FA Cup Football Special **2.30** Football League Review **3.30** Sports Centre **3.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Racing News **8.00** US Golf **10.00** Golf **12.30pm** Max Power **1.30** Powerboat and Jetsport World **2.00** Live International Cricket **9.00** V-Max **9.30** World Motor Sport **12.30am** Cycling **1.00** International Bowls **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Saturday Fight Night **2.00** World Motor Sport **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** Cycling **6.30** Fish TV **7.30** Total Sport **8.00** International Bowls **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing: A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Figure Skating **9.30** Athletics **11.00** Biathlon **12.30pm** Ski-Jumping **2.00** Tennis **4.00** Live Cross-Country Skiing **6.00** Live Women's Tennis **8.00** Live Tennis **10.00** Football: Eurogoals **11.30** Boxing **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **3.25** The Bill **3.55** The Bill **4.25** EastEnders **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Casualty **10.05** Prince **11.40** The Bill **12.10am** The Bill **12.40** Blackadder the Third **1.15** French and Saunders **1.50** Dangerfield **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** Doctor at Large **8.00** Hallelujah **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** The Brian Conley Show **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Close

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Our House **7.00** Boon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Grown Ups **12.30** Gridlock **1.00** Close



Alison Steadman stars as a troubled mother in Mike Leigh's bittersweet comedy *Life is Sweet* (FilmFour, 8pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars (1997)** **8.15** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids **9.00** Double Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** Years **11.00** Touched By An Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** EekIStravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear etc **2.30** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempestt **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: SIS Extreme Justice (1993)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Hardcore (1977)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY
7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: The Running Man (1987)** **12.00am** VR 5 **1.00 FILM: Fluke (1995)** **2.45** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Global Gardens **10.30** Two's Country Cooking **11.00** The Dicemen **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** A River Somewhere **5.00** Time Travellers **5.30** Terra X: The Voyage Home **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Nick's Quest **8.30** The Supernatural **9.00** Electric Skies **10.00** The Great Egyptians **11.00** Test Flights **12.00am** Planet Ocean **1.00** Terra X: The Voyage Home **1.30** Time Travellers **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Deadly Australians **2.00** It's a Vet's Life **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Deadly Australians **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **9.00** Wild at Heart **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Hunters **11.00** Breed All About It: Labradors **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Hunters on the Wing **7.30** Dublin's Outlaw Horses **8.00** Living with Leopards **9.00** The Winds of Eternity **10.00** Lost Worlds: Colossal Claw **10.30** Lost Worlds: Dinosaur Fever **11.00** Lost Worlds: In Search of Human Origins **12.00am** On the Edge: Wall Crawler

HISTORY

4.00pm Clash of Wings: Germany's Last Chance **5.00** Lighter than Air: To the Edge of Space **6.00** Lost Castles of England **7.00** Fabulous Fortunes: Wages of War — The Dogs of War **7.30** I, Witness: Getting By

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coron's Kitchen College **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** First Taste **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Nordic Nosh **1.00** Coron's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Cooked in a Flash **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** Grape Expectations **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Philbert the Frog **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Roseanne Show **10.00** Jerry Springer **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** The Heat Is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Silent Cradle (1997)** **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Tara **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Bane Bi Apni Baat **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** FILM **3.00** Bangla TV: Nokarer Raf **3.30** Ilve Pe Ikka **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Neeyat **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Teacher **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Mausam **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** The Big Debate **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Blunt Two **12.00am** News **12.30** Karobari Duniya **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parwarian **2.00** FILM **4.30** Ebar Jombo Mowpa



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Roger Bootle asks where the fun is



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MARCH 8 1999

Private hospitals urged to pass on £100m VAT windfall

By Marianne Curphey
Insurance Correspondent

MEDICAL insurers are threatening legal action to force private hospitals to pass on a £100 million VAT windfall they are enjoying as a result of a court victory against Customs and Excise.

Private hospitals began reclaiming VAT after winning a landmark legal battle which allowed them to recover from Customs the VAT paid on drugs and some surgical appliances used in treatment and operations.

BUPA, which controls one of the largest network of private hospitals in the country, has already added almost £30 million to its balance sheet as a result of reclaimed VAT.

Now medical insurers who sent their customers to private hospitals believe that since it was they who paid the final bill for treatment, the VAT refund should be passed on to them.

Paul Saper, healthcare analyst with Laing & Buisson, estimated the total VAT windfall due to private hospitals could be as high as £100 million, of which a significant proportion might be due to medical insurers. Among the medical insurers currently negotiating for repayments are Prime Health, PPP healthcare and WPA.

Prime Health declined to say how much it had recovered so far but said it was "still actively pursuing a positive resolution" in negotiations with hospital networks. A spokeswoman for the company said: "Looking after our customers' interests and negotiating the keenest prices for them are of paramount importance and, as such, discussions are continuing with various hospital groups regarding previous incorrect charging of VAT in certain areas. Some monies have been recovered."

Julian Stainton, managing director of WPA, said he believed that the company could be owed up to £4 million in VAT and interest payments from private hospitals. He said: "Some of the £30 million that BUPA has already received from Customs and Excise should have been passed on to us. The big hospital groups appear, however, to be extremely reluctant to cooperate. We are currently in negotiations but if we do not secure a proper settlement we will contemplate taking legal action to recover this money."

A spokesman for PPP healthcare said: "Where hospitals have recovered VAT we are working with them to identify and recover the amount of money due to us as a medical insurance company."

BUPA, which is due to report its results next month, said the £30 million included in last year's results was "a one-off payment" which was unlikely to be repeated. The VAT refund related to the period between 1979 and 1996.

A spokesman for the company, which owns 36 private hospitals and has 1,900 hospital beds, said the reclaimed VAT was "ploughed back into the business to improve the facilities in our hospitals".

The ruling by the Court of Appeal two years ago was the culmination of a five-year struggle. The case was brought in 1992 by a group of private health companies to contest a Customs and Excise ruling that private hospitals could not reclaim VAT on purchases of medical supplies. The issue hinged on whether pharmaceuticals and some surgical devices and prosthetics, such as pacemakers or hip replacements, should be regarded as zero-rated or exempt for VAT purposes.

A spokeswoman for Customs and Excise said after the ruling, which came into force early last year, that certain drugs, medicines and applicances used in hospitals were now zero-rated for VAT.

UB chief to call the tune at EMI

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

IN ONE of the most surprising boardroom shake-ups of recent years, Eric Nicoli, chief executive of United Biscuits, the struggling McVities and KP group, is to succeed Sir Colin Southgate as executive chairman of EMI, the international music and recording group.



Nicoli: takes over in July

EMI, which has previously been criticised over boardroom benefits, is to pay Sir Colin £800,000 in lieu of the final year of his contract, although he is leaving as planned.

Mr Nicoli has been a non-executive director of EMI since 1993. He will become chairman designate at the beginning of May and take over formally as chairman when Sir Colin retires at the end of July.

UB announced yesterday that 48-year-old Mr Nicoli, who has been chief executive there since 1991, will be succeeded by Leslie Van Walle, a 43-year-old Frenchman, who is currently chief executive of the key McVitie's Group. Colin Short, UB's non-executive chairman, will also step down in May. He will be replaced by Sir Gordon Hourston, 64, a non-executive director, formerly of Boots the Chemist.

As part of the changes at EMI, Sir Dominic Cadbury, another non-executive director, will become become joint deputy chairman and the senior non-executive from July, in succession to Sir Peter Walters.

The global search for a successor to Sir Colin, who has been EMI chairman since 1989 and who is also chairman of the Royal Opera House, has led to uncertainty at the music group. In choosing Mr Nicoli the board has opted for general business skills rather than a music industry figure.

Ken Berry and Martin Bandier will remain chief executives of the two EMI businesses — Recorded Music and Publishing. They will report to Mr Nicoli, as will Simon Duffy, joint deputy chairman and group finance director.

The company said: "In the light of the important roles of Ken Berry and Martin Bandier in the group's businesses, they [the board] have unanimously concluded that the appointment of an executive chairman who brings complementary skills and experience would provide the most effective structure for EMI."

Apart from knowing EMI, the UB chief executive had operated in "highly competitive consumer-orientated businesses throughout his career". Before joining United Biscuits in 1980 Mr Nicoli began his marketing career with Rowntree Mackintosh. In recent years he has had a tough time at UB trying to compete with strong rivals such as Pepsico's Walkers Crisps brands and pressure on biscuit margins from supermarket own brands.

UB revealed four days ahead of schedule that its 1998 pre-tax profits edged up as the City expected from £106.2 million to £110.1 million before exceptional items linked to acquisitions. Along with millennium expenses, these are expected to cost £30 million.

During his years in charge Sir Colin has presided over the radical restructuring of Thorn EMI, including the disposal of more than 100 businesses, culminating in the demerger of Thorn from EMI in 1996.





Southgate: £800,000 payoff

Guinness has found its way into the Himalayas with the announcement that the Mount Everest Brewery has begun brewing the black stuff. The brewery, based in Nepal, has started producing the famous stout just in time for St Patrick's Day on March 17. Nepal is the 50th country in which Guinness is brewed. The deal between Guinness and the Mount Everest Brewery will see the Nepalese company brew and distribute the stout at 130 bars in the capital city, Kathmandu. The beer will also be transported by yak to the world's highest inns, the "Tea Houses" serving tourists trekking in the Himalayas.

BMW Rover pledge expected

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

BMW is this week expected to commit itself to building a new small-to-medium size Rover car. But the German car company is not likely to follow the announcement with a pledge on the future of Longbridge, Rover's Birmingham plant, despite applying to the Government for aid last week.

It is thought that the future of Longbridge will be sealed next week at BMW's next supervisory board meeting.

BMW's belated application for about £200 million of state aid has raised hopes that the company is serious about maintaining Longbridge. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has made it clear that the Government is willing to give financial help to secure the survival of Longbridge — upon which 50,000 jobs in the West Midlands are dependent.

Launch aid for new manufacturing projects are gauged on the business plans of the new development and the cash input from the company. BMW is thought to have held extensive talks with Department of Trade and Industry officials so that its application did not fail or was forced to be modified substantially. Its bid is now likely to be granted quickly.

Although the application is a positive move for Longbridge, it does not mean the plant will survive in its present form or that the new model will be built there. BMW will unveil its plans for the new model at the Geneva Motor Show this week.

Plea for tax breaks on floats

By Paul Armstrong

THE London Stock Exchange has asked the Government for tax breaks on the cost of raising capital as part of a radical proposal to make public listings more attractive to smaller companies.

The request, which is understood to be a key part of the Exchange's pre-Budget submission, is in response to growing fears about the flight of investment capital away from the small company sector. The Exchange believes tax relief on the costs of flotation would reduce a major deterrent to joining its ranks.

The Times understands that it wants the breaks made available to companies with market capitalisations of up to £250 million, although this figure is not firm. However, it has stopped short of asking that similar relief apply to the cost of fund-raisings by companies already listed.

Costs, such as underwriting, accounting, legal and public relations fees, are estimated to consume an average of 10 per cent of the money raised in flotations.

This is thought to be significantly higher for many smaller companies, which raise smaller amounts and can do less of the work in-house than their larger counterparts.

The Government is understood to have given Stock Exchange officials no indication of whether the proposal would be adopted in this week's Budget.

More than 60 per cent of UK companies have a market capitalisation of less than £100 million.

The collective size of the sector is also highlighted by the FTSE All-Small index, which accounts for 78 per cent of companies listed on the main market.

But these statistics are doing nothing to help the sector's plight.

WTO to hear banana protest

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE WORLD Trade Organisation will meet in an emergency session today as Europe presses for condemnation of the United States over its banana row sanctions.

The meeting follows a series of top-level exchanges between Britain and the US, including a meeting between Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Madeleine Albright, his US opposite number, and a telephone call between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton.

Britain is furious about the sanctions against some European Union goods because of the effect on the cashmere industry.

All 134 members of the WTO will be present in Geneva today for the summit, which was called by the EU. Although the organisation cannot instruct the US to end the sanctions, Europe hopes that its condemnation will force a climbdown.

The US is aggrieved that Europe favours Caribbean bananas over Latin American ones distributed by American companies.

Yesterday Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, became the latest Cabinet minister to attack the US's action. She told the BBC's *On the Record* programme that the US should abide by WTO rules.

Today Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, will visit Scottish cashmere manufacturers and union representatives. About 2,500 jobs are at risk because of the sanctions.

Formula One Eurobond investors await green light

By Jason Nissé

AS THE Formula One season got under way in Melbourne yesterday, the $2 billion (£1.24 billion) Eurobond being issued by Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One administration appears still to be stalled on the starting grid.

The launch of the bond was first announced in late September and a prospectus was sent to more than 150 prospective investors in early November. The issue of the bond followed an unsuccessful attempt to float Formula One.

There was a presentation by Mr Ecclestone and his investment bankers, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, a few days later. A few days after that, Warburg Dillon Read and Merrill Lynch, two of the leading brokers of Eurobond, announced that they had declined invitations to join the syndicate to market the bond.

Then came a rumour that the size had been reduced to about $1.2 billion and that WestLB, the German bank, was leading a small group of investors who would buy the bond in its entirety. All Morgan Stanley would say was that it was continuing to market the bond. No deal with WestLB has materialised.

After a couple more months of no news and little apparent activity on the marketing of the bond, Morgan Stanley said this weekend that it was still continuing to market the bond to potential investors.

Many of these potential investors expressed anxiety that most of the money being raised was going to a trust for the benefit of Mr Ecclestone's wifeand children, about the interest rate offered on the bond and the security of the income streams securing the issue.

Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, is investigating Formula One's television contracts. Mr Ecclestone and Max Mosley, who runs the sport's administrative body, the FIA, claim the contracts are watertight, but few investors will put up money until after the investigation.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1659

ACROSS
1 The Ark builder (4)
4 Secondary job; to move away from influence (8)
8 Camouflage (8)
9 Single specimen of book; text for ad (4)
10 Pivoted bar (5)
11 An American marsupial (7)
13 Impostor; pretentious type (6)
15 (Taxes, troops) raised (6)
18 Thick, sticky (liquid) (7)
20 A benign growth; type of tiny sea creature (5)
23 Unrestrained, reckless (4)
24 Part of small intestine (8)
25 Unwillingly allow (8)
26 Ghana, Benin neighbour (4)

DOWN
2 Peace-symbol tree (5)
3 Healthy practices (7)
4 Rubbish bin; bound along (4)
5 Name-changing procedure (4,4)
6 (Technical) place: (math.) curve (5)
7 God of the sea (7)
10 Edge; cheek (3)
12 Unable to fly; based (8)
14 Cavity opening (7)
16 Using great force (7)
17 Decline; quick swim (3)
19 Apple drink (5)
21 Immature (5)
22 Half sleep (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1658
ACROSS: 1 At all costs 8 Withers 9 Reach 10 Lark 11 Iolanthe 13 Impart 15 Secret 17 Gorgeous 18 Amen 21 Afoot 22 Squalid 23 Split hairs
DOWN: 2 Tutor 3 Lieu 4 Custom 5 Streamer 6 Shatter 7 Threatened 8 Walsingham 12 Oriental 14 Parlous 16 Gusset 19 Molar 20 Tuba

